

*Hafa Adai!*

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 63

SATURDAY MARCH 14, 2009

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
**Should the Legislature override the governor's veto of the Fiscal Year 2009 budget?**

Let your voice be heard!  
Go to  
[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)  
to cast your vote.

## INSIDE



### Stout Defense

Confronting misgivings, President Barack Obama mounted a stout defense of his blueprint to overhaul the economy.

**NATION...Page 10**



### Croc Attack

A huge crocodile knocked over a canoe in a southern Philippine lake and decapitated a 10-year-old girl.

**MAHARLIKA...Page 13**



### Accessory

Anna Nicole Smith's boyfriend and two doctors were charged with giving prescription drugs to the former Playboy playmate.

**LIFE & STYLE...Page 20**

Unsafe building, lack of staff force nursing board to relocate. **PAGE 2**  
MHS club wins 2 gold, 5 silver in Guam competition. **PAGE 5**

## \$31M govt projects completed in 2008, \$12.9M pending

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

More than \$31 million in government construction projects were completed in 2008, while over \$12.9 million more are still pending close out, latest documents obtained from the De-

partment of Public Works show.

The biggest of the completed projects were the close to \$18.7 million 344-bed prison building in Susupe, the \$4.9 million Tinian High School phase 2 construction, and the \$2.4 million rehabilitation of the Rota East Harbor.

Public Works

Secretary Diego B. Songsong said the release of the latest list of construction projects completed, as well of those still pending, should give the public an



Songsong

idea of the amount and types of government projects that have long been in the planning stages but were finally completed last year.

"We're working to close out those pending projects," he added.

Data shows 37 completed projects last year, and 25 pending ones.

Most or 28 of the completed projects were on Saipan, totaling \$22.559 million.

Besides the \$18,619,854 Susupe prison built by Telesource

**See \$31M on Page 4**

## NMC board: McPhetres out

But Fitial says member's designation 'still active'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**I**s she in or is she out? The Board of Regents says no; the governor says yes.

A legal conundrum is brewing at the Northern Marianas College in the case of



McPhetres

Agnes McPhetres, with the Board of Regents saying her resignation became automatically effective when they received it on March 6. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial disagrees, saying he never received the letter and, as far as he is concerned, McPhetres is still an active

member of the board.

In yesterday's special board meeting, the members never got around to voting whether to accept or reject McPhetres resignation because the discussion focused on legal questions surrounding McPhetres' initial letter of resignation to the gov-

**See NMC on Page 4**

## FEDERALIZATION LAWSUIT

### Judge places case 'under advisement'

By KRISTI EATON  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A federal court judge said he would take under advisement the U.S. government's motion



Friedman

to dismiss the federalization lawsuit, as well as the CNMI's request for preliminary injunction

to suspend labor provisions of Public Law 110-229. At a hearing in U.S. District Court for Washington, D.C. on Thursday, Judge Paul L. Friedman heard oral arguments from lawyers representing the federal government and the CNMI.

The CNMI sued the U.S. Department of Labor, former Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and former Homeland

**See JUDGE on Page 4**

## Ortizo, Espina win Sengebau poetry competition



By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Eleventh grade Ryan Ortizo of Mt. Carmel School and 14-year-old Jasmin Espina of Hopwood Junior High School emerged champions in the 6th Annual Sengebau Poetry Competition held Thursday night at

the American Memorial Park's Visitors Center.

Ortizo and Espina, who bested 12 other young poets in their respective divisions, were awarded the competition's perpetual plaque.

Sponsored by the NMI Council for the Humanities, this year's en-

**See ORTIZO on Page 4**

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Participants in the 6th Annual Sengebau Poetry competition pose with their certificates of participation and awards Thursday night at the American Memorial Park's Visitors Center. Inset shows Ryan Ortizo of Mt. Carmel School and Jasmin Espina of Hopwood Junior High School being presented their awards as champions.





# Local

## Probe ongoing in sale of SS numbers issued on Saipan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Investigation on the sale of thousands of Social Security account cards issued on Saipan to illegal immigrants in Chicago continues, according to

Bridgette M. Camacho, district manager of the Social Security Administration on Saipan.

Nineteen persons were indicted on Feb. 24 in Chicago in connection with the selling to Chinese nationals of SS account cards issued on Saipan between

2003 and 2008.

Approximately 16,666 Illinois driver's licenses and identification cards were issued to individuals using social security numbers with a "586" prefix, which is assigned to Saipan, Guam, American Samoa and

the Philippines. But a 156-page criminal complaint said "a large portion" of these cards were issued by the SSA on Saipan.

Camacho said because of the ongoing probe by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, SSA cannot comment on the

issue, based on guidance from the SSA regional office after consulting with the Chicago Regional Office, the Chicago Office of Inspector General, and the National Press Office.

However, as public service, Camacho said the public should never pay for a service that SSA will do for free, including the application for a Social Security

number, according to Camacho.

There are websites run by private companies not affiliated with SSA that advertise they could complete an application for a Social Security card, and charge a fee.

SSA does not charge a fee for either an original or a replacement Social Security card.

## Unsafe building, lack of staff force nursing board to relocate its office

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Due to a very old building that now poses health and safety threats and lack of staffing to assist nurses, the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners will

move out of its current office on Capital Hill and relocate to the new Department of Public Health facility in Garapan.

"Our office on Capital Hill is not a safe place anymore," Roca Q. Sablan, vice chair of the seven-member nursing board, told

Saipan Tribune.

By moving to the new DPH building in Garapan, she said the board will not only have a safer office but will also receive help from other DPH staff in answering the phone when nurses call for information and for filing documents.

"The secretary of Health knows that we need help at the office. So the solution is for us to move down to DPH so that

someone there can help us with answering the phone and filing. The office we are supposed to move in now is where the human resource office is, at the new [DPH] building," said Sablan.

For many years, the nursing board had only one full-time employee, while the volunteer board members have full-time jobs.

Sablan said the board members have been trying their

best to be at the board office to evaluate, sign applications and/or verify documents submitted by nurses.

"We have been having a problem with getting a clerk for our office," said Sablan, adding that the board has tried numerous times to ask for another full-time clerk to help answer the phones, reply to e-mails and attend to nurse applicants.

She said the only full-time em-

ployee is swamped with work related to renewals of nurse applications and filing, and has no time answering phone calls or responding to e-mails.

"For now it is not a good idea to get in touch with us by phone or e-mail since we are in the process of moving our office down to DPH," said Sablan, adding that it's best for the public to send the board an air mail

See UNSAFE on Page 4

*Live the Fiesta Way!*

# Fiesta Resort and SPA Saipan

goes down memory lane with the

## RETRO NIGHTS

at the **Chambre BAR**

**MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS**

Join the duo of **MARIO and JOAN** and Enjoy the music of the 60's 70's and 80's.

**HAPPY HOUR** from 5 to 7pm  
**LIVE BAND MUSIC** from 6:30p.m. to 9:15p.m.  
**KARAOKE** 9:15p.m. to 10:00p.m.

For Reservations and Inquiry Please Call 234-6414 ext. 1547-1548 or 233-6414

In Cooperation with  

**Fiesta Resort & SPA SAIPAN**  
A TanHoldings Company

# Authentic Chamorro & Mexican Cuisines @

**Kadun Pika, Escabeche, Estufao, Kelaguen & MORE!!!**

**PLUS Local style B.B.Q.**

**MENU CHANGES WEEKLY**

<b>Monday - Saturday</b> <b>11am ~ 2pm</b>	<b>Sunday</b> <b>Brunch Special</b> <b>11am ~ 2pm</b>
<b>\$15.00 p/p</b>	<b>\$22.00 p/p</b>

*Another exciting offer from the grand!*

**Children 5-11 years old 50% OFF**  
**All Government Employee 20% OFF**  
**Affiliate Discount 20% OFF**  
**VIP & LOCAL DISCOUNT APPLY**  
**Senior Citizen 30% OFF**

For reservation please call  
234 6601 or 235 6616

 **Saipan Grand Hotel**  
A TanHoldings Company



# Knight attends stimulus meeting led by VP Biden

By KRISTI EATON  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Every state and territory in the United States is feeling the pressure as governments compete for the stimulus money, according to Lynn Knight, Gov. Benigno Fitial's representative at a Thursday stimulus meeting in Washington D.C.

Knight, chairperson of the Commonwealth Economic Development Strategy Commis-

sion, was among state and territory representatives from across the country that learned about the process.

Vice President Joe Biden, who, along with Earl Devaney, the Inspector General of the Department of the Interior, is tasked with overseeing the funding process, led the meeting.

The meeting was designed to present the latest information on the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

of 2009. Each federal agency that has a pot of money within the package presented during the meeting, which President Obama briefly attended, "which was a surprise," Knight said. "He came in around 11am, so we were really excited to be able to see him and hear what he had to say."

The CNMI is not the only area feeling like it has limited resources and is working against the clock to complete the grant

applications in order to compete for money, Knight, the publisher of the *Saipan Tribune*, said.

"One of things I saw today is every state in the nation feels the same way. This is a very accelerated schedule. Everyone has limited capability. ... This is just happening so fast, and it's so huge everyone is just scrounging for information," she said.

Biden made a good point during his remarks, Knight said. The vice president said

the United States is in a crisis, and it requires an exercise in discipline and fiscal responsibility, because this has never been done before and there is only one chance to get it right.

Knight will share the information she learned with Com-

merce Secretary Michael Ada and Fitial. Ada is leading the CNMI's effort for grant money.

On Wednesday, the Commerce chief said he would be pleased if the CNMI received \$100 million to \$150 million in competitive grant money.

The Commonwealth is expected to receive approximately \$30 million in non-competitive formula grant funds, he said.

## Clock starts ticking for CUC to comply with stipulated orders

By KRISTI EATON  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson signed two stipulated orders this week that seek to reform and bring into compliance the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s wastewater plants and collection systems.

The orders also required the utility company to follow regulations regarding public drinking water systems; the five power plants; and an oil

transfer pipeline.

In November, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency filed a civil suit against CUC, claiming the utility agency has committed violations against the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. The suit was accompanied by the two stipulated orders, which means that the CNMI government agreed to the terms and conditions being required of it by the EPA. The requirements set completion dates—some within

30 days—that the utility agency must meet or get fined thousands of dollars each day.

With the orders now signed, the time period for completion is now underway.

During a presentation to the Legislature last month, Bruce Megarr, CUC deputy director for the Water and Sewer Division, said the two projects that must be completed within 30 days are at least halfway done.

The schedule of the closing of the Tanapag and Achugao springs was 90 percent complete

and another project—testing for bin classification on the three islands—was 50 percent complete. The testing will cost \$100,000. Of the projects that must be completed within 90 days, some have been completed. CUC is allowed two years for some projects such as cleaning the entire sewer pipe system.

According to the presentation, the cost incurred for 2009 to complete the necessary projects is \$5.8 million. For 2010, the cost decreases to \$3 million and in 2011 it drops to \$2.8 million.

The biggest hurdle to meeting the orders is the budget, Megarr told lawmakers. For fiscal year 2008, revenue was about \$6.3 million while expenses were about \$9.9 million, a shortfall of \$3.6 million. The numbers are unaudited.

## The TJSHS Stallions charge again

Out of six categories, the Tinian Junior & Senior High School's Stallion Team came home with four gold and one bronze medals at the 6th Annual Chamorro Language Competition sponsored by the University of Guam on March 10, 2009.

In the high school female singing category, freshmen Chloe Hofschneider walked away with a gold medal after singing *Nānan-Māmi* by the Hofschneider Brothers.

Junior student Benjamin Huk Borja introduced an original song, *Buenas Marianas*, that he and his father, Antonio SN Borja, composed and was awarded a bronze medal.

Raena P. Cing, another junior, defended her title from last year and came home with a gold medal.

At a corner of the University's Field House that was packed with parents, coaches, and spectators was Megan Cruz, another 9th grader, who charmed everyone at the oratorical competition with the theme "Na' Magof



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tinian Junior & Senior High School's Stallion Team members display the four gold medals and one bronze medal they got during the 6th Annual Chamorro Language Competition in Guam. From left, Mary Hocog, Megan Cruz, Raena Cing, Chloe Hofschneider, and Benjamin Borja.

Numa'fāmta I Fino'-ta Kada Hā'āni," and walked off with a gold medal—her fourth so far—after winning in the middle school level oratorical and the 6th grade poetry category in previous years.

Another freshmen, Mary

Hocog, got another gold medal with her original poem in the high school poetry category, her second since winning a gold in last year's middle school poetry.

The activity was part of the university's 52nd anniversary. (PR)

## Interior's Salazar meets with new Palau president

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar met with the new President of Palau, Johnson Toribiong, yesterday at the Department of the Interior. This is Toribiong's first official visit to Washington, D.C. since he was inaugurated on Jan. 15.

At the meeting yesterday, Toribiong and Salazar discussed the Compact of Free Association between the U.S. government and Palau, the financial provisions of which are scheduled to expire on Sept. 30,

2009. Upon emerging from the United Nation's Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Palau entered into a 50-year Compact of Free Association with the United States which began on Oct. 1, 1994. The financial provisions are schedule to expire after 15 years.

Salazar assured Toribiong that Palau would remain on the department's agenda and described ongoing efforts to staff positions at the highest levels of the department and Insular Affairs. He said his staff would

be working collaboratively with the Department of State and other federal agencies to ensure a cohesive and unified approach to Palau.

Salazar thanked Toribiong and Palau's Ambassador to the United States, Hersey Kyota, for the service and sacrifices of the citizens of Palau who proudly serve in the U.S. armed forces. Citizens of Palau are among the highest per capita members of the armed forces, compared to other U.S. jurisdictions. (PR)

### MEETING NOTICE



Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, **March 18, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.** at the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

#### AGENDA

- 1) Preliminary Matters
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Roll Call
  - c. Adoption of Agenda
  - d. Adoption of Minutes
    - January 22, 2009
- 2) Public Comments
- 3) Committee Reports
  - a. Finance
  - b. Policy
  - c. Personnel
  - d. Ad Hoc Reports
- 4) Old Business
- 5) New Business
  - a. Korea Marketing Activities
    - i. Travel Agent FAM Tour from Busan
    - ii. Additional \$5,000 for Marianas Road Show in March
    - iii. Mode Tour's 20th Anniversary Promotion
    - iv. Online Promotions with Three Travel Agents
  - b. Japan Marketing Activities
    - i. Budget Reallocation
    - ii. Diving Campaign
    - iii. MRA 40th anniversary memorial tour
  - c. KSPN LLC Contract
  - d. 1st Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament
- 6) Executive Session
- 7) Adjournment

/s/ Jerry Tan  
Chairman, MVA Board of Directors

## New Unlimited Prepaid Plans!

**NEW**  
**\$0.50\*** per day

**FREE local SMS to all local carriers**

- Voice: \$0.20 / minute
- SMS: FREE local SMS to all local carriers  
\$0.06 / Philippine SMS (Globe, Smart, Sun Cellular)  
\$0.10 / U.S. and International SMS
- Data: \$0.002 / KB

**\$1.95\*** per day

**FREE Unlimited Local Voice to Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam.**

- Voice: FREE
- SMS: \$0.04 / local SMS to all local carriers  
\$0.06 / Philippine SMS (Globe, Smart, Sun Cellular)  
\$0.10 / U.S. and International SMS
- Data: \$0.002 / KB

\* There is a 1c service charge per 100 calls for unlimited local calls

**NTT docomo**

**DOCOMO PACIFIC**

483-CARE | [www.docomopacific.com](http://www.docomopacific.com) | Typhoon-Proven

Gualo Rai, Middle Road • Mita Travel, Garapan

Available to GSM prepaid DOCOMO PACIFIC subscribers in the CNMI. Customers required to call or visit any DOCOMO PACIFIC store to sign up for these plans. Other conditions to apply.





## SPELLING BEE CONTENDERS

Dandan Elementary School students Jeffery Centino and Martin Kapileo left the island yesterday for Guam to participate in the 2009 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee Contest to be held at Hilton Hotel. Of the 85 participants last year, Centino came in 10th place. Aside from being a Spelling Bee star at DES, Centino is also the STUCO president, part of the Academic Challenge Bee Team who will be competing April 11 with various PSS and private schools. Kapileo is a fifth grader and an alternate. His presence is to watch and learn so next year he will know what to do and not have stage fright. Reo Arriola is the coach and will be traveling to Guam as well.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## NMC

From Page 1

error, copies of which were also sent to the other regents.

Board chair Charles V. Cepeda told members of the faculty and regents that, based on the opinion of the board's legal counsels, "no action is necessary for the board to take" in McPhetres' resignation, meaning it was automatically effective when the letter was received Friday.

Board regent Janet King said she disagrees with the legal counsels' opinion. That didn't stop the board chair from announcing that the issue is closed and it's the "majority's decision."

McPhetres, who was also present during the meeting, explained that her resignation was never "read, received, and properly delivered" to the governor.

"I submitted my letter to the governor and I met him at 4pm. We talked about the implication and the governor even told me that 'I don't even want to take a look at it [the resignation letter]'. As soon as we finished our meeting, I immediately contacted NMC to recall the letter to the board members, which I was informed was already sent out," she explained.

Feeling it immaterial for her to stay and "plead" her case, McPhetres stood up and spoke to the crowd at the conference room: "It seems that the chairman of the board obviously didn't want me to be on board. So I thank you everyone who are here for your support. Many of you are here when we started this college and you know how hard this college started. For the sake of peace, integrity, and truthfulness I think I might as well step out."

McPhetres said she wants to set the record straight: "I was never involved

in any of the [staff] gathering...and it has been alleged that I've done that. I am stepping down because of these allegations. But I want the record straight that I am leaving this board with a clean slate. I have done nothing wrong and one of these days, the truth will come out."

She thanked everybody and then walked out of the room.

A few minutes later, the board went into executive session and then adjourned.

### Governor's wish

In an interview with McPhetres outside the venue, she said her decision to recall her resignation was because of the governor's wish and desire for her to be on board.

"I know the governor will be very disappointed with the chairman's decision. I started this college from nothing and I have been here for over 17 years. My experience, capability as president and member of the accrediting team convinced the governor that my service is needed here at NMC," she said.

McPhetres is the first and longest serving president of the college.

She recalled that during her term as president, the college didn't experience serious problems with its accreditation.

"Now they are blaming me for all this?" she asked.

She disclosed that since day one of her appointment to the NMC regency, "President [Carmen] Fernandez went against my appointment."

She did not elaborate when pressed.

### Fitial: McPhetres still active

As soon as Fitial was informed of the board's decision, he immediately wrote a letter to Cepeda, informing him of McPhetres' active membership in the board.

"As the appointing authority for the NMC Board of Regents, I am writ-

ing to inform you that as far as I am concerned, Regent McPhetres is still a member of the NMC board because her resignation was not actually tendered, served, or effectuated," Fitial told Cepeda yesterday.

The governor admitted that he never actually read McPhetres' resignation letter and his office has no record of receiving, stamping, or noting it.

"When we met in my office, she expressed a strong desire to resign from the board...However, after much discussion, McPhetres and I both agreed that her resignation would not serve the best interest of NMC and the CNMI community," the governor's letter stated.

When contacted by *Saipan Tribune* last night, Cepeda declined to comment on the governor's letter, saying he has yet to see it.

### 'Reappointment strong possibility'

During yesterday's board meeting, however, Cepeda said their decision is final.

"It's final that Regent McPhetres did resign from the board...and we have two vacancies now."

Cepeda believes, though, a member can return to the position through reappointment.

"That's a very strong possibility," he said, adding that the person who resigned or is resigning is the one who informs the governor of the decision or action.

In a separate statement, Cepeda acknowledged McPhetres' assistance and support to NMC and the board.

"Ms. McPhetres has played an integral role in the establishment of the college and her contributions are well recognized," said Cepeda. "We continue to be thankful for her dedication and commitment and wish her well in her future endeavors."

and honorable mentions Tinian High School's Gorgiana Paulino, Marianas High School's Diana Quinata, and KHS' Christian Yamada.

### Proud to be me

Jasmin Espina, 14, said that writing poems has always been among her chief interests even as a kid.

"I love doing it since I was in third grade...and I am always excited whenever there is a competition of this kind," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Espina was adjudged overall winner in the junior division for her delivery of *Proud To Be Me*.

*Be proud of who you are  
Don't be afraid to shine  
Don't be afraid to speak  
Don't be afraid to cry  
The world will only listen to you*

## UNSAFE

From Page 2

for inquiries and applications.

Nurses on Saipan and abroad have been complaining about not getting hold of any nursing board staff for inquiries and follow-ups regarding their profes-

sional certification and other inquiries.

Many of them said no one answers the nursing board's listed phone number nor responds to e-mails.

The nursing board is tasked with regulating nurses' professional accreditation and with giving them the approvals they need to work in hospitals elsewhere in the United States.

## JUDGE

From Page 1

Security Secretary Michael Chertoff to halt the implementation of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008. Starting June 1, unless otherwise delayed, federal immigration laws will extend to the CNMI. Lawyers for the Commonwealth also filed a preliminary injunction to stop the DHS and DOL from taking over the CNMI's labor system.

Each side spoke for about an hour during the hearing. David DeBruin, a lawyer for the Jenner & Block law firm representing the CNMI, spoke before the court. Theodore Atkinson represented the U.S. Department of Justice.

DeBruin began his arguments by explaining the CNMI's right to self-government under the Covenant agreement. He also noted the significance of foreign workers to the Commonwealth

workforce, according to a person present in the courtroom who asked not to be identified. Also, DeBruin argued that the federal justifications for federalization are insufficient.

For his part, Atkinson followed the briefs the U.S. had previously filed, according to Charles Miller of the DOJ Office of Public Affairs.

The federal government says the CNMI's arguments are speculative and Section 503 of the Covenant specifically permits the U.S. Congress to enact federal immigration laws to the Commonwealth, while Section 105 of the Covenant generally permits Congress to apply federal law to the CNMI. Moreover, the CNMI cannot bring the lawsuit, the U.S. argues, because the Office of the Attorney General is not representing the Northern Mariana Islands.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said the CNMI would continue to wait to see what the judge decides.

## \$31M

From Page 1

CNMI Inc., the other biggest Saipan projects include:

■ \$790,329.62, for the supply and delivery of fire alarms for public schools by Western Pacific Electric;

■ \$416,747, for the construction of a new Department of Lands and Natural Resources laboratory and warehouse by Pacific Cooperation;

■ \$408,468, for the demolition and construction of the Women, Infant and Children Clinic by USA Fanter Corp; and

■ \$355,734.88, for the construction of the Dandan Community Park (phase 1) by Maeda Pacific Corp.

On Tinian, only three projects were completed in 2008:

■ the \$4,948,079.52 construction of Tinian High School by AIC Marianas Inc.;

■ the \$218,870 construction of the brown tree snake laboratory by Tropex

Garden Ltd.; and

■ the \$104,194.70 design for the Route 201 construction by EM Chen & Associates.

Two more are still pending close out—a \$505,627.31 payment to a Tinian project manager (William S. Hofschneider, consultant), and the \$76,365 architectural and engineering design services for the Student Services Center at the Northern Marianas College campus on Tinian by TRA.

Rota saw the completion of six projects in 2008. The biggest ones were:

■ the \$2,433,472.09 Rota East Harbor rehabilitation by GPPC Inc.;

■ the \$385,720 construction of the Rota High School JROTC building drill pad by Pacific Cooperation; and

■ the \$189,818.88 Rota Fire Station roof hardening by DK Brothers.

Earlier, Songsong disclosed that DPW is poised to award over \$5.57 million worth of contracts for seven long-awaited projects that include a \$2.788 million road construction on Rota and the Marpi public cemetery.

Stressing that the college is continuing to move forward in its efforts to meet accreditation requirements for the benefit of its students and the com-

munity, Cepeda also emphasized that members of the Board of Regents will continue to work within and uphold the policies and procedures of the college.

## ORTIZO

From Page 1

tries must adhere to three topics: culture, identity, and change.

Admitting that his participation was a last-minute decision, Ortizo said he was surprised by his win.

"I was pretty shocked because there were so many good contestants here and I was just amazed by their performances. It feels rewarding and humbling as well. It's really a good feeling," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Ortizo, also the school's student council president, has been participating in the competition since eighth grade.

He has previously been adjudged top winner in his division twice and

receiving this honor for the third time makes the win truly memorable, he said.

Titled *Take Me Back Home*, Ortizo's poem tackled the poet's desire to experience and enjoy the once island paradise of his heart.

*Take me back to the land  
Of the smiling sun,  
A paradise surrounded by  
The majesties of wonder  
And the marvels of life,  
Where beauty is found even  
In the tiniest seashell  
Or the mighty ironwoods  
That stand tall  
And watch over our land.*

Ortizo is the eldest son of Myrna and Roy Ortizo. Other winners in the senior division were second place Joseph Kumangai of Kagman High School's

*If you stand up for yourself.  
Tell them what you believe in  
Just like our president himself.*

It was Espina's second time to join the Sengebau poetry contest.

"It's surprising and I'm really excited!" she said after accepting the award.

The daughter of Maricris Ramos and James Espina, Jasmin vowed to defend the title in next year's competition.

Other winners in the junior division were second place Delfina Jose Biz of Tinian Jr. High School and honorable mentions Raymelyn Sakisat of Rota Junior High School, and Lucas Nutting and Susanne Park, both of Saipan International School.

### Good turnout

NMI Council for the Humanities program officer Scott Russell noted that

despite fewer participants in this year's event, they were amazed at each poet's delivery and performance.

Each participant was assessed based on the poem's content and the author's recital.

Last year, 22 students joined the poetry competition in the junior and senior divisions.

Russell believes the ongoing accreditation visits in many of the private and public schools were among the factors in the participation being down this year.

The program officer promised to continue to hold the event as it aims to encourage children to write and use poetry at the same time.

"The council is very committed to literacy both in reading and writing. This is one way to do it," he said.



# MHS club wins 2 gold, 5 silver in Guam contest

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Marianas High School's Chamorro Club members were victorious in their trip to Guam last Tuesday after bagging most of the major awards in the sixth annual Chamorro language competition.

Organized by the University of Guam, the event saw over a hundred participants from public and private schools in Guam and the CNMI crammed into the University Field House where the competition was held.

MHS sent 15 members of its Chamorro Club and the group bagged seven various awards and recognitions, including two gold medals and five silver awards in different categories.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that Jowel Naputi was named recipient of the gold medal award in the male singing competition while the group was adjudged top winner in the dramatic cultural interpretation.

Josephine Ada, a member of the group, bagged three silver

awards in the female singing category, poetry recitation, and oratorical division.

Ernest Sablan Jr. was also awarded a silver medal in the proficiency category.

The MHS Chamorro Club was this year's champion in the dramatic cultural interpretation category and was a silver medalist in the song and dance category.

The following were the con-

test categories: male and female singing, skit, dance, proficiency, poem and speech reading.

Other members of the group were Michael Salas, Atanacio Salas, Augustine Naputi, Jesse Muna, Vince Agulto, Mayumi Nakazato, Desiree Blas, Pearlyn Guanzon, Joycelyn Camacho, Christie Camacho, and Cassandra Ayuyu.

Ada, a sophomore, shared yesterday her memorable and

exciting experiences at the competition.

"This is my second year in the Guam competition and it's always our goal to achieve the best for our school and students. We're very happy and proud that we went home with all these honors," she told *Tribune*.

Ada said the group has been preparing for the event since December.

"All our hard work paid off,"

she said.

Last year, Ada was also the recipient of two silver awards for speech reading and poetry reading.

She believes that it's critical for every student to learn and love the native language as it speaks a lot about culture and the identity of people.

"For me, it's more than a competition because students are facing each other with the intention and desire to effectively spread the local language. With the new kinds of modern technology around, I believe it's critical for every student to appreciate and preserve the indigenous languages," she said, adding that, as a member of the Chamorro Club, it is the duty of each individual to become an ambassador and role model to their peers.

According to Patty Cruz, one of the club's advisers, they were elated with the students' achievements.

She said MHS has been participating in the Guam competition in the last six years and has constantly been successful in getting major recognitions.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas High School's Chamorro Club members pose for the camera after a successful performance at the sixth annual Chamorro language competition in Guam.

## Three Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has raised the red flag on beach sites fronting the Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, and DPW Channel Bridge and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The agency raised the red flag after samples collected on these sites were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

Tinian, on the other hand, got a green flag this week, with its waters declared safe for fishing and swimming.

DEQ analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water taken from 38 locations on Saipan's coast this week as part of routine sampling.

Marine Water Quality Reports are also provided at [www.deq.gov.mp](http://www.deq.gov.mp) and [www.cnmicor-alreef.net](http://www.cnmicor-alreef.net). Interested individuals and organizations can also receive email notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports. To do so, send an email to [environment@deq.gov.mp](mailto:environment@deq.gov.mp).

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (PR)

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Tinian High PTA meeting set

This is to inform all Tinian High School parents and guardians that there will be a PTA meeting on Tuesday, March 17, at 7pm at the Northern Marianas College Room A. Agenda is as follows: Accreditation visit, survey and calendar for SY 09-10. Your presence is urgently requested. Call Herman Hofschneider, Carla SanNicolas, Annie King, Lynette Hofschneider or Rose Lazaro if you have any questions. (PR)

### Book, tent sales at public library

The Library Friends will be holding a Book Sale and Tent Sale on Saturday, April 4, 2009, 7:30am-12pm. Reserve your tent space at the library's main desk for a \$20 fee. Drop off any books, magazine, DVD's for donation at the library during normal business hours. (PR)

### CDI awards RST certificates

The Community Development Institute will be awarding certificates to participants in the Related Service Technician program. Related services assistants/ technicians work with children with severe disabilities to support their related services needs in order to maximize their skills and clients, including their participation in school, home and village communities. RSA/Ts are trained to assist teachers and therapists in helping these children. The awarding rites will be held today, March 14, 2009 (Saturday), 6pm, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Azucena Room. For more in-

formation, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (670)234-5498 ext. 1050 or e-mail [pr@nmcnet.edu](mailto:pr@nmcnet.edu). (PR)

### NMC alumni sets Barbecue Bash

The NMC Alumni Association is inviting all NMC alumni to the first ever "NMC Alumni Reunion Barbecue Bash" to be held on Managaha Island on April 4, 2009. There will be food, fun, drinks, and games. Interested alumni can log on to [www.nmcnet.edu](http://www.nmcnet.edu) and register on the alumni page. Alumni membership cards include discounts to businesses and access to NMC facilities. Interested alumni can also e-mail vice president Chris Cabrera at [mistercabrera@yahoo.com](mailto:mistercabrera@yahoo.com) or Laura Williams at [laurawilliams7@gmail.com](mailto:laurawilliams7@gmail.com) for more info. (PR)

### OES registration schedule

Oleai Elementary School's registration for all incoming Kindergarten students for school year 2009-10 will be from April 1 to 30, 2009. Students entering Kindergarten must be born between Sept. 1, 2003 and Aug. 31, 2004.

For new first grade and transfer-in students (Grades 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>), registration will be in June to July 2009.

Documents required for registration are as follows:

1. Birth certificate (from the court)
2. School Entrance health certificate (updated)
3. Current school accident/health insurance coverage/ Medical card (updated)
4. Residency map
5. Legal adoption/ guardian-

ship document (if applicable)

6. Valid CNMI entry permit (if applicable)

Oleai Elementary School zones covers the areas bounded by south of Naked Fish Restaurant on Beach Road, Gualo Rai, Chalan Laulau, Chalan Kiya (Golf Course), bottom of As Terlaje Hill, North of Island Market to Falughula and San Jose (Oleai).

For any questions, call the school at 664-3942. (PR)

### Rota DPS sets insurance checkpoints today

The Rota Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting mandatory liability insurance checkpoints today, March 14, 2009.

The first setup will be along San Francisco Highway Unginao by the Rota Hotel, from 9am to 10:15am. The second setup will be along San Francisco Highway Tatgua, from 5pm to 6:15pm.

Checkpoints will be terminated if it begins to rain. Officers will also be conducting highway criminal interdictions and laser activities. For more information, contact Officer Jarrod Manglona at 670-532-9433. (PR)

### Pre-Economic Summit sessions set

The Department of Commerce and Commonwealth Development Authority, in partnership with the Northern Marianas College and IT&E, said that there will be a "Pre-Economic Summit Public Session" workshop at the Multi-Purpose Center Building in Susupe and the NMC campuses on Rota and Tinian on March 19, 2009 from

8:30am-1pm.

This session will focus on identifying economic opportunities, challenges, potential industries, and proposed changes to regulations that will benefit the Commonwealth. The event will also be broadcasted to Tinian and Rota through video teleconference to give participants there the opportunity to participate in this workshop.

The business community from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are encouraged to attend this important event. Registration is limited. To register for the event, send your name, contact information, address, company/corporation name, and island location to [cnmibizz@gmail.com](mailto:cnmibizz@gmail.com) or you can call (670) 664-3018/3077. (PR)

### Free parenting seminar today

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship will be having a parenting seminar called "Parenting God's Way" today, March 14, at their facility in Chalan Laulau. The seminar will be from 10am to 4pm, with guest speakers Mark and Terry Benavente from Guam.

Mark and Terry have been married for 20 years and have two children. Mark is a graduate of the University of Hawaii and has been a pastor for 16 years. Terry is a graduate of the University of Guam and is a trainer with Special Education. They will be speaking about today's challenges as a parent and tips on how to have a healthy pattern for parenting.

The seminar is free of charge and lunch plates are provided by Kagman JROTC for \$5. Child-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jowel Naputi and Josephine Ada are shown performing.

"We're very proud of our students and it is one avenue we can encourage them to help spread the word out about the Chamorro language. The event is more than just a competition but a celebration of the kids' talents," she said, adding that every year the school noted an increase in the club's membership and the proficiency they've shown in the Chamorro language.

care is also available for free. Contact 285-4949 / 285-2378 or email at [lifeintheson@pticom.com](mailto:lifeintheson@pticom.com) or visit [www.lifeintheson.net](http://www.lifeintheson.net) for more details. (PR)

### Kagman Saturday Flea Market today

Kagman's Saturday Flea Market will be held today, March 14, 2009, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. You may only sell your used items. Tents will be provided. Interested sellers can call 256-POST for more info. (PR)

### Quarterly tax return deadline

The 2009 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter deadline for filing the quarterly tax returns is Thursday, April 30, 2009. The Division of Revenue and Taxation will be open from 7:30am to 4:30pm on Thursday, April 30, 2009. The office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation is located at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center. For additional information call 664-1000, 664-1043 Compliance Branch, or 664-1066 Collection Branch. (PR)

### Income tax return deadline

The Division of Revenue and Taxation wishes to inform all CNMI residents that the deadline for filing of the 2008 individual Income Tax Return is Wednesday, April 15, 2009, at the office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation located at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center. Deadline hours for April 15, 2009 are from 7:30am to 4:30pm. (PR)



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XIX, Issue No. 63Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER  
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## A bear escape: President Obama undoes Bush's gutting of Endangered Species Act without going too far

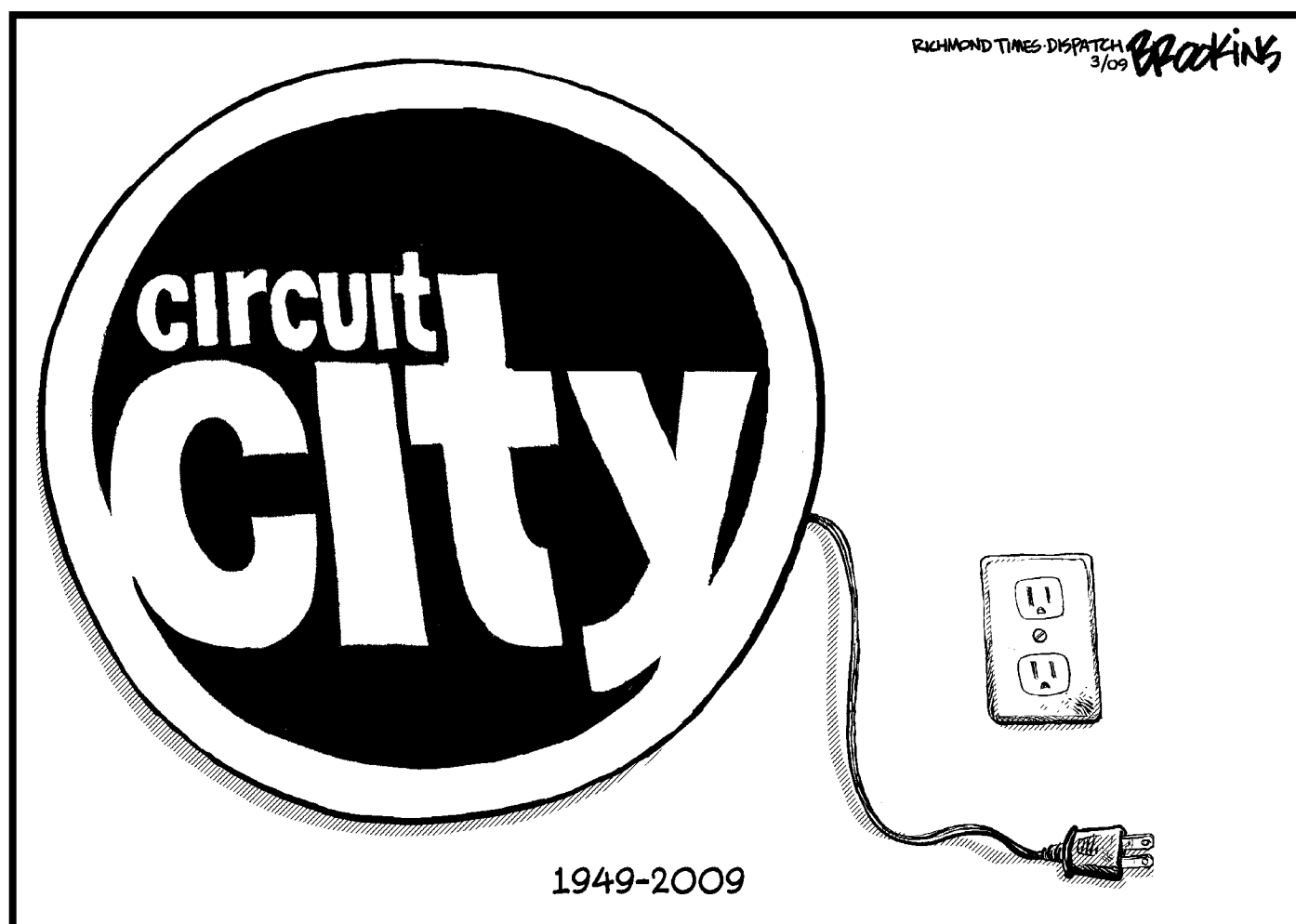
During a visit to the Interior Department last week to celebrate its 160th anniversary, President Obama reversed an end-of-term Bush administration regulation that had gutted one of the signature environmental laws: the Endangered Species Act. Mr. Obama ordered the restoration of inter-agency consultation on projects that may affect threatened or endangered species while Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and the next commerce secretary review President George W. Bush's Dec. 16 directive to determine whether to pursue a new rule.

When then-Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne announced in May 2008 that the polar bear would be listed as a "threatened" species under the Endangered Species Act because of global warming, his finding was based on science. All the evidence pointed to the continued melting of the polar bear's Arctic ice habitat. Under the law, the classification requires that federal agencies consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service on any actions or permits they grant that might jeopardize the species. But the law was never meant to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. Kempthorne's regulation got it right when he prevented "global processes" (climate change) from triggering such consultations. Nevertheless, the rule went a step too far by reinterpreting the Endangered Species Act to mean that agencies do not have to consult the Fish and Wildlife Service or any other service before taking actions that might affect any species, not just polar bears.

All that changed with Mr. Obama's announcement. "I've signed a memorandum that will help restore the scientific process to its rightful place at the heart of the Endangered Species Act," he said. That means asking agency heads "to follow the prior long-standing consultation ... practices involving the FWS and (National Marine Fisheries Service)." This will not only restore the check on agency ambitions to complete projects, but the give-and-take in the consultation process will produce compromises that minimize the harm to protected species.

Just as important, while it didn't say so explicitly, the memo upheld the common-sense portion of the Bush rule; consultations still won't be triggered by the potential impact of a specific project on global warming. That keeps in place the guidance issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service last year to its staff that the best scientific evidence cannot make a causal connection between greenhouse gas emissions from a specific facility or government project and harm to listed species or their habitats.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



## They're taking their brains and going home

Seven years ago, Sandeep Nijsure left his home in Mumbai to study computer science at the University of North Texas. Master's degree in hand, he went to work for Microsoft. He valued his education and enjoyed the job, but he worried about his aging parents. He missed watching cricket, celebrating Hindu festivals and following the twists of Indian politics. His wife was homesick, too, and her visa didn't allow her to work.

Not long ago, Sandeep would have faced a tough choice: either go home and give up opportunities for wealth and U.S. citizenship, or stay and bide his time until his application for a green card goes through. But last year, Sandeep returned to India and landed a software development position with Amazon.com in Hyderabad. He and his wife live a few blocks from their families in a spacious, air-conditioned house. No longer at the mercy of the American employer sponsoring his visa, Sandeep can more easily determine the course of his career. "We are very happy with our move," he told me in an e-mail.

The United States has always been the country to which the world's best and brightest—people like Sandeep—have flocked in pursuit of education and to seek their fortunes. Over the past four decades, India and China suffered a major "brain drain" as tens of thousands of talented people made their way here, dreaming the American dream.

But burgeoning new economies abroad and flagging prospects in the United States have changed everything. And as opportunities pull immigrants home, the lumbering U.S. immigration bureaucracy helps push them away.

When I started teaching at Duke University in 2005, almost all the international students graduating from our Master of Engineering Management program said that they planned to stay in the United States for at least a few years. In the class of 2009, most of our 80 international students are buying one-way tickets home. It's the same at Harvard. Senior economics major Meijie Tang, from China, isn't even bothering to look for a job in the United States. After hearing from other students that it's "impossible" to get an H-1B visa—the kind given to highly-skilled workers in fields such as engineering and science—she teamed up with a classmate to start a technology company in Shanghai. Investors in China offered to put up millions even before 23-year-old Meijie and her 21-year-old colleague completed their business plan.

When smart young foreigners leave these shores, they take with them the seeds of tomorrow's innovation. Almost 25 percent of all international patent applications filed from the United States in 2006 named foreign nationals as inventors. Immigrants founded a quarter of all U.S. engineering and technology companies started between 1995 and 2005, including half of those in Silicon Valley. In 2005 alone, immigrants' businesses generated \$52 billion in sales and employed 450,000 workers.

Yet rather than welcome these entrepreneurs, the U.S. govern-

By VIVEK WADHWA

Special to The Washington Post

Vivek Wadhwa is a senior research associate at Harvard Law School and executive in residence at Duke University. wadhwa@duke.edu.



ment is confining many of them to a painful purgatory. As of Sept. 30, 2006, more than a million people were waiting for the 120,000 permanent-resident visas granted each year to skilled workers and their family members. No nation may claim more than 7 percent, so years may pass before immigrants from populous countries such as India and China are even considered.

Like many Indians, Girija Subramaniam is fed up. After earning a master's in electrical engineering from the University of Virginia in 1998, she joined Texas Instruments as a test engineer. She wanted to stay in the United States, applied for permanent residency in 2002 and has been trapped in immigration limbo ever since. If she so much as accepts a promotion or, heaven forbid, starts her own company, she will lose her place in line. Frustrated, she has applied for fast-track Canadian permanent residency and expects to move north of the border by the end of the year.

For the Kaufmann Foundation, I recently surveyed 1,200 Indians and Chinese who worked or studied in the United States and then returned home. Most were in their 30s, and 80 percent held master's degrees or doctorates in management, technology or science—precisely the kind of people who could make the greatest contribution to the U.S. economy. A sizable number said that they had advanced significantly in their careers since leaving the United States. They were more optimistic about opportunities for entrepreneurship, and more than half planned to start their own businesses, if they had not done so already. Only a quarter said that they were likely to return to the United States.

Why does all this matter? Because just as the United States has relied on foreigners to underwrite its deficit, it has also depended on smart immigrants to staff its laboratories, engineering design studios and tech firms. An analysis of the 2000 Census showed that although immigrants accounted for only 12 percent of the U.S. workforce, they made up 47 percent of all scientists and engineers with doctorates. What's more, 67 percent of all those who entered the fields of science and engineering between 1995 and 2006 were immigrants. What will happen to America's competitive edge when these people go home?

Immigrants who leave the United States will launch companies, file patents and fill the intellectual coffers of other countries. Their talents will benefit nations such as India, China and Canada, not the United States. America's loss will be the world's gain.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Stop the political blame game

**N**ow that the CNMI House of Representatives overrode his veto of the budget bill for fiscal year 2009, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has stated that his administration has no choice but to reduce personnel. Massive layoffs in an election year? Sounds like a bold move, but I am just wondering if any of the personnel Fitial plans to lay off will include any of his loyalist supporters.

I'm a bit confused right now. Is this the same governor who went on a hiring frenzy within the last three and a half years? How many non-essential employees has Governor Fitial hired just within the last three months? When a business is on the verge of collapse, the very last thing it does is hire hundreds of non-essential employees. If anything, they trim the fat and cut expenses, cut unnecessary personnel, and put a freeze on hiring. Isn't Governor Fitial highly regarded as a business executive? Wasn't he supposed to run the CNMI government like a business?

The truth is, real austerity measures begin with Governor Fitial. If anyone is really interested in keeping their jobs, I suggest putting "Better Times Part II" bumper stickers on their cars and on posters around their homes. Better yet, pay him a visit and tell him how you and your entire family will vote for him in November. Just be sure you have a big family name and a copy of your family tree.

If Governor Fitial really wants to trim the fat, here is a great place to begin:

### Sue bad garment factory owners instead of the federal government.

This is a brilliant plot that could gain a great deal of sympathy and support from the same federal government which "we" are suing. Instead of spending millions of dollars on suing the federal government which gives us more than \$130 million annually while protecting us from the world's "axis of evil," let's get our AG's office to sue the former garment factory owners who left swiftly and suddenly in the middle of the night, abandoning their garment employees with unpaid wages and no plane tickets home to their country of origin. Many of the stranded garment workers have been deemed unemployable because they lack special skills or can't speak any English. Out of hunger and desperation, some of these former garment workers have had to resort to prostitution, stealing copper, or selling and distributing "ice" (crystal meth). I think Governor Fitial should get his financial gurus together and have them crunch some numbers to see how much these dastardly garment factory owners have cost the CNMI. I highly recommend Governor Fitial sue for punitive damages as well. Who knows? Maybe the federal government will give us a bigger portion of the stimulus package, and Fitial could gain some votes!

### Prepaid meters in all government buildings.

What's more important? Keeping employees, or keeping cool? Ever walk into a government office and see employees wearing sweaters because it is so cold? Perhaps if every government office was responsible for pre-paying for the power they consume, it would no longer be like walking into a meat freezer. Perhaps the heads of every government agency would actually push for massive energy conservation efforts as well. CUC certainly would be happy, as they would be able to pay their vendors on time. We really need to ask ourselves, can we live without air conditioners? Most of us grew up without air conditioners at home or at school. If my memory serves me correctly, the only air conditioned classroom at MHS some 20

years ago was our computer classroom. The bottom line is, sweating is good for you. Government employees could sweat out body toxins, lose a little weight, and conserve power, all at the same time. Who knows? Maybe this could pull in some votes for Fitial!

### Pay for your own power bill.

As a symbolic gesture, I think Governor Fitial should come out and tell us that he wants to pay for his own CUC bill from this day forward, because "every dollar counts." Judging from the size of his huge mansion up on the hills of Saipan overlooking us common folk, it must cost a small fortune each month to power his palace and all its lights. Maybe this goodwill gesture will inspire many of our government employees to start paying for their own cell phone bills, to return their leased luxury automobiles and start driving their own cars, and to start paying for their own gas instead of charging it to CNMI's taxpayers. Who knows? Maybe this will pull in some votes for Fitial!

### End all government leases.

Whether it is a car lease or an office lease, end it immediately. Move all government offices to Capital Hill. Have office employees team up and renovate the building they will be moving in to. Sure, those offices on Capital Hill might be a bit small for large government agencies like CUC, but we can always extend the buildings with pala palas on each side. Ever been to some of the barracks here on Saipan? If hardworking guest workers can pack 20 people to a room, I am certain our government employees can manage. This austerity measure alone will save the CNMI millions annually! Who knows? Maybe this could garner Fitial votes!

### Pozzolan in a box.

At one point in time, the CNMI government could have potentially made billions off of selling pozzolan from Pagan. Whatever the lame excuse is, mining pozzolan on Pagan never materialized. So what is stopping the CNMI government from mining it right now? Instead of hiring more political or non-essential employees, how about Governor Fitial hire a bunch of unemployed former garment factory workers, send them up to Pagan, and have them pack cardboard boxes and bags with pozzolan. We could then market "Pagan Pozzolan" online and sell it on e-Bay! The CNMI could potentially make millions and the former garment factory workers could make more than enough money to pay for their plane ticket home. Who knows? Maybe this could bring Governor Fitial votes!

### Fire all special advisers and consultants.

Let's trim the fat by getting rid of special assistants to special assistants, "policy" advisers, and those so-called "volunteer" employees who supposedly don't get an official paycheck yet get their lodging, food, and/or first-class travel paid for. The truth is, Governor Fitial doesn't need all these non-essential/nonsensical employees. If he wants real advice, he should try hosting a public forum. Maybe it would give Fitial a dose of reality. Maybe he would find that sometimes in life, the best advice is free advice. Who knows? Maybe this will bring him some votes!

These are only a few ideas I came up with within the last 30 minutes. I am sure if Governor Fitial hosted his very first community forum, he will find that the best solutions to our problems come from common, everyday people who struggle to make ends meet. Our economic hardships qualify us to speak about real austerity

## Mr. President, time to rein in the chaos

By **ANDREW S. GROVE**  
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

*There is nothing more difficult ... than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things.*—Niccolo Machiavelli

**M**achiavelli's 500-year-old warning notwithstanding, we elected a president who is committed to "change." The economic meltdown in which our country finds itself at the start of his administration makes his difficult task even more daunting. In less than two months, the hopeful enthusiasm that welcomed the Obama administration has given way to growing worry and frustration. I find myself wringing my hands, not over the goals President Obama has set but over the ineffectual ways the administration has pursued them. I have no qualifications to judge how well the Obama team manages the political dynamics, but as a business executive with 40 years' experience, much of it managing change, and a part-time academic dedicated to studying why so few corporations succeed in navigating change, I feel compelled to comment not on the WHAT of the Obama team's efforts but on the HOW.

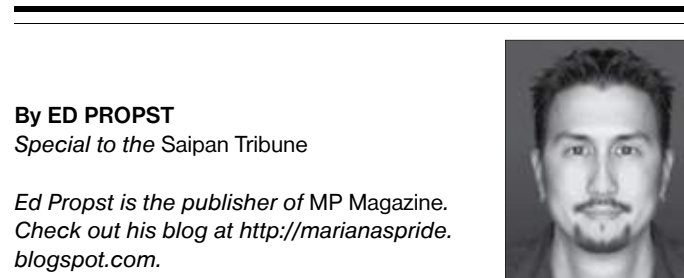
I have found that to succeed, an organization must travel through two phases: first, a period of chaotic experimentation in which intense discussion is allowed, even encouraged, by those in charge. In time,

when the chaos becomes unbearable, the leadership reins in chaos with a firm hand. The first phase serves to expose the needs and options, the potential and pitfalls. The organization and its leaders learn a lot going through this phase. But frustration also builds, and eventually the cry is heard: Make a decision—any decision—but make it now. The time comes for the leadership to end the chaos and commit to a path.

We have gone through months of chaos experimenting with ways to introduce stability in our financial system. The goals were to allow the financial institutions to do their jobs and to develop confidence in them. I believe by now, the people are eager for the administration to rein in chaos. But this is not happening.

Until the administration does this, we should not embark on attempting to fix another major part of the economy. Our health-care system may well be ripe for a major overhaul, as are our energy and environmental policies. Widespread recognition that all of these reforms are overdue contributed to Barack Obama's victory in November. But if the chaos that resulted from initiating such an overhaul were piled on top of the unresolved status of the financial system, society and government would become exhausted. Instead, the administration must adopt a discipline; not initiating a second wave of chaos before we have a chance to rein in the first.

The point is, all administrations, including this one, have a finite capacity to deal with the details of monumental problems—and



By **ED PROPST**

*Special to the Saipan Tribune*

*Ed Propst is the publisher of MP Magazine. Check out his blog at <http://marianaspride.blogspot.com>.*

measures because we actually practice it in our homes and in our day-to-day living. Governor Fitial needs to start listening to his constituents and stop listening to his highly-paid and highly-ineffective advisers and consultants. If this is truly a government of the people, for the people, and by the people, then shouldn't town hall meetings and public forums be a fundamental part of good governance?

I admit, my suggestions are tongue-in-cheek, but I am sincere about the need to put an end to the political blame game between the different branches of government. Instead of blaming all of our problems and last night's flat tire on federalization, perhaps it is high time that CNMI leaders take some responsibility for the problems the CNMI is faced with today. Perhaps if we took care of our investors and helped them instead of trying to take advantage of them, they would still be here. Perhaps if we looked into the real reasons why the CNMI went from pulling in 700,000 Japanese tourists annually not so long ago to barely 300,000 today, we would not be so dependent on maintaining the visa waiver for Russian and Chinese tourists. And last but not least, perhaps if each and every one of us took better care of ourselves and quit bad habits like smoking two packs a day, drinking a six-pack of beer every night, or eating Spam every morning, then maybe we wouldn't be spending millions annually on treating preventable illnesses and diseases.

In an effort to end the blame game, maybe it is high time that we agree that in some way or another, we all must share the blame for our problems. When we say that we can't report corruption or speak out against wrongdoings because we might lose our jobs, then we are to blame. When we all know that a person stole hundreds of thousands of dollars from the CNMI government and we say nothing and do nothing about it, then we are to blame. When we hire a relative even though our relative is not the most qualified applicant, then we are to blame. When we choose to treat our guest workers as indentured servants rather than guests and as an extended part of our family, then we are to blame. When we believe that minimum wage should be stuck at \$3 for more than a decade and that it is good enough to support a family, then we are to blame. When we make disparaging remarks about locals being lazy or fail to train our local population to get out of the government and into the private sector, then we are to blame. When we have the God-given talent and wisdom to lead the CNMI yet we are unwilling to run for office because we discovered we would be paid less than what we are currently making, then we are to blame. And when we continue to elect leaders based on friendship and family with the promise of employment, while failing to scrutinize their character, intelligence, and performance, then ultimately, we are to blame.

There is a lot of truth to the old saying, "We get the government we deserve." If we truly want a better future for the CNMI, then we all must make a concerted and conscientious effort to fight the good fight and stand up for what we believe in, regardless of criticism or consequences. There can be no other way.

the financial system's troubles certainly are monumental. Equally important is that society has a finite capacity to understand what created the problem, what the likely solutions are going to be and, most important, what can be expected from the new order of things and when.

Leading an organization, let alone a society, out of the chaos phase and into a new order requires explicitly clear and consistent messages from the top. The leader must paint a picture of the new and fill in lots of detail so that all relevant parts of society understand what they need to do to contribute. The answers to the questions "What is wrong?" "What are we going to do?" "How are we going to do it?" and "What should we expect?" should be drummed home relentlessly. This needs to be an ongoing process, where clarity, consistency and repetition are key. It is hard work and requires a laser-like focus on the solution.

First things first. Strive to achieve stability in our financial system. When the momentum is clear enough to allow trust in the system to return, then tackle the next mega-problem. As Machiavelli said, "One change always leaves the way open for the establishment of others."






*Andrew S. Grove was chief executive of Intel Corp. from 1987 to 1998 and now serves as senior adviser. Since 1990, he has taught strategy at Stanford University Graduate School of Business.*



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

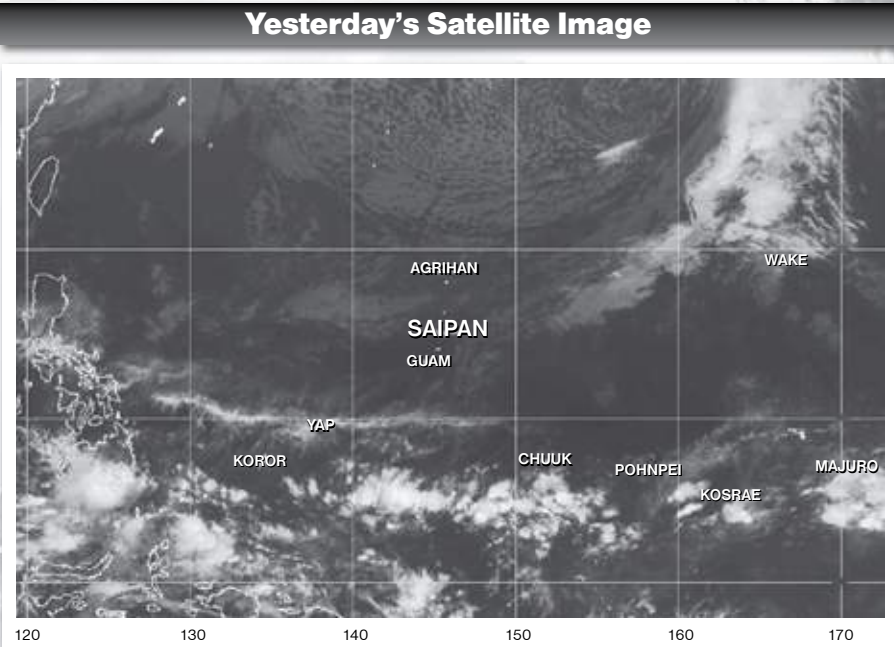
## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Showers	▲83 ▼74
Palau	Showers	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Sunny	▲89 ▼80
Pohnpei	Sunny	▲87 ▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲89 ▼76
Majuro	Rain	▲80 ▼77

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Sunny	▲66 ▼54
Beijing	Cloudy	▲52 ▼36
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲72 ▼64
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲77 ▼64
London	Rain	▲54 ▼39
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲70 ▼52
Manila	Cloudy	▲87 ▼76
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲81 ▼69
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲83 ▼69
New York	Cloudy	▲47 ▼34
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲50 ▼39
Paris	Showers	▲56 ▼40
Pusan	Sunny	▲56 ▼38
Rome	Sunny	▲62 ▼44
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲50 ▼36
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲61 ▼48
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲43 ▼32
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲55 ▼48
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲49 ▼38

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
3:45 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
9:21 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:15 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:32 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2009**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from near Minamitori Shima at 25N161E to 19N152E then continues west-southwestward as a shear line through Pagan at 17N146E to end at 15N130E. Cloudiness with patchy rain and a few thunderstorms are occurring along and up to 200 miles northwest of the cold front. Scattered showers are found along and up to 150 miles north of the shear line. A near-equatorial trough stretches eastward from south of Mindanao to 3N130E to a weak circulation centered near 2N143E to end at EQ145E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen near the trough axis south of Koror, Yap and Chuuk south of a line from 6N130E to 6N154E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Kosrae and Kwajalein but over Majuro within 140 miles of a line from 1N162E to 7N172E. Similar conditions are also found over Butaritari and Tarawa atolls within 105 miles of a line from 2N173E to 4N180.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:26 AM	6:27 PM	Today	9:16 PM	8:12 AM
Sunday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM	Sunday	10:11 PM	8:55 AM
Monday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM	Monday	11:05 PM	9:40 AM
Tuesday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM	Tuesday	11:58 PM	10:27 AM
Wednesday	6:23 AM	6:28 PM	Wednesday		11:18 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

- REQUIREMENTS**
- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
- HOW TO SUBMIT**
- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

- POLICY**
- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
  - The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
  - For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>Saipan-Rota</b> CO9597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7	<b>Rota-Saipan</b> CO 9598 3:25am 4:00am 5,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b> CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily CO9313 8:30am 9:20am Daily CO9597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6 CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>Guam-Saipan</b> CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am 1,2,3,4,7 CO9598 2:30am 4:00am 5,6 via Rota CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9600 10:20am 11:10am Daily CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b> NW 099 5:00am 7:35am Daily NW 078 8:20am 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily	<b>Narita-Saipan</b> NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:20am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 100 8:45pm 1:10am+1 Daily
<b>Guam-Narita</b> NW 73 4:10pm 7:00pm Daily NW 81 3:55pm 6:55pm Daily	<b>Narita-Guam</b> NW 74 9:45am 2:20pm Daily NW 82 10:30am 3:10pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b> OZ 119 4:00am 6:40am 1,4,6	<b>Osaka-Saipan</b> OZ 120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7
<b>Guam-Osaka</b> NW 79 4:45pm 7:35pm Daily	<b>Osaka-Guam</b> NW 80 10:30am 3:00pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b> NW 078 8:20am 11:05am Daily	<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b> NW 077 9:00pm 1:20am+1 Daily
<b>Guam-Nagoya</b> NW 23 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>Nagoya-Guam</b> NW 24 10:00am 2:30pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Incheon</b> OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 119 4:00am 11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily	<b>Incheon-Saipan</b> OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7 via Osaka OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b> OZ 608 3:20am 6:50am 1,4,5,7	<b>Busan-Saipan</b> OZ 607 9:00pm 2:10am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Saipan-Shanghai</b> FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2,6	<b>Shanghai-Saipan</b> FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1,5
<b>Rota-Guam</b> CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7	<b>Guam-Rota</b> CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6
<b>Guam-Palau</b> CO 953 7:40pm 8:40pm 1,7 CO 893 5:50pm 6:50pm 3,5	<b>Palau-Guam</b> CO 954 2:30am 5:25am 1,2 CO 892 2:35am 5:30am 4,6
<b>Palau-Manila</b> CO 893 7:35pm 9:10pm 3,5	<b>Manila-Palau</b> CO 892 10:10pm 1:50am+1 3,5
<b>Guam-Manila</b> CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	<b>Manila-Guam</b> CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror CO 934 11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily PR 110 10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
<b>Nagoya-Manila</b> NW 71 8:40pm 11:55pm Daily	<b>Manila-Nagoya</b> NW 72 6:30am 11:05am Daily
<b>Incheon-Hongkong</b> OZ 721 9:20am 12:00pm Daily OZ 723 7:45pm 10:35pm Daily OZ 7173 8:00pm 10:50pm 5,7	<b>Hongkong-Incheon</b> OZ 724 12:30am 4:50am Daily OZ 7183 12:45am 5:05am 1,4,6 OZ 722 1:30pm 5:45pm Daily
<b>Narita-Manila</b> NW 1 7:00pm 10:55pm Daily	<b>Manila-Narita</b> NW 2 7:45am 12:40pm Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



# NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



Schedule of Religious Services														
CATHOLIC														
<b>Mt. Carmel Cathedral</b> Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm														
<b>Korean Center</b> Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm														
<b>Kristo Rai Parish</b> Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm														
<b>Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish</b> Wednesday Mass: 6pm First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6pm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am														
<b>Saint Jude Parish</b> Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm														
<b>San Antonio Parish</b> Sunday: 6am and 8am Tuesday and Friday: 6pm														
<b>San Francisco de Borja-Rota</b> Sunday: 6am and 8am Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm														
<b>San Isidro-Rota</b> Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm														
<b>San Jose (Oleai) Parish</b> Sunday: 6am and 7:30am Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm														
<b>San Roque Parish</b> Sunday: 9am Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am														
<b>San Vicente Parish</b> Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm														
<b>Santa Remedios</b> Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism														
<b>Santa Soledad</b> Sunday: 7:30am														
PROTESTANT														
<b>Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan</b> Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm														
<b>Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan</b> Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm														
<b>Chinese Christian Church of Saipan</b> Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm														
<b>Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan</b> Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm; Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm														
<b>Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan</b> St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions														
<b>Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan</b> Worship Service: 9am GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm														
<b>Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan</b> Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English) Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)														
<b>Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville</b> Sunday Services 9:00 AM Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158 Pastor JJ Matsumoto														
<b>Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)</b> Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)														
9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)														
<b>Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan</b> English Service: 9-11am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday														
<b>Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan</b> Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm														
<b>Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan</b> Sunday Worship Service: 10am- 12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)														
<b>Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan</b> English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm														
<b>Missions Connection Ministry</b> Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm														
<b>Northern Marianas Christian Church</b> Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620														
<b>Saipan Bible Fellowship Church</b> Sunday School: 9:30-10am Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm														
<b>Saipan Christian Church</b> Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)														
<b>Saipan Church of Christ</b> Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm														
<b>Saipan Community Church</b> (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm														
<b>Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan</b> (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm														
<b>First Baptist Church</b> (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church) Afetna St., San Antonio Sunday <table><tr><td></td><td>9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10am</td><td>Regular worship</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>6pm</td><td>worship</td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>7pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.				9am	Sunday school		10am	Regular worship		6pm	worship	Wednesday	7pm	worship
	9am	Sunday school												
	10am	Regular worship												
	6pm	worship												
Wednesday	7pm	worship												
<b>Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center</b> Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism														
<b>Upper Room International Ministries</b> Sunday 5:30 am-6:30 am Morning prayer <table><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>English service</td></tr><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td>10am-12noon</td><td>English service,</td></tr></table> Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			7am-9am	English service	7am-9am	Sunday school	10am-12noon	English service,						
7am-9am	English service													
7am-9am	Sunday school													
10am-12noon	English service,													
<b>Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church</b> Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S														



March 14, 2000

**High oil prices seen to drive cost of basic goods up**  
Although increasing prices of petroleum products remain confined in gas pumps, airline tickets and transportation costs, their effects will soon translate to further contraction of the CNMI economy in terms of higher commodity prices. Northern Marianas distributors of items imported from the mainland United States and other countries are starting to feel the pinch of skyrocketing oil prices, reporting a sharp increase in the cost of moving the commodities from off and within the island. If oil prices stay high for months, the impact could grow as consumers pay more for basic commodities. Pacific Trading Co. Ltd., one of the Commonwealth’s largest distributors of imported goods, noted a significant increase in the transportation of its imports from the Saipan port to the warehouse.

**Appointment power faces legal challenge**  
A major legal battle is brewing between the Senate and the executive branch over the extent of the legislative authority to confirm appointments made by the governor, ranging from members of boards and commissions as well as departments heads. Senators have authorized their legal counsel Steve Woodruff to represent the upper house in any legal actions seeking determination of the constitutionality of its advice and consent authority granted by law as well as the extent and limits of the governor’s appointment power. Initiated by Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez, the move came on the heels of disagreement between the two branches of the government over appointments and nominations made by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

March 14, 2001

**Lights off at Tinian Airport**  
Has the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation gone berserk? The corporation’s recent disconnection sprees have included Tinian International Airport which placed safety of air transport passengers in peril, according to Ports Authority Board Chair Roman S. Palacios. Mr. Palacios said CUC’s action could have resulted in a major air disaster had the airport’s stand-by generators failed to promptly kick-on. In an interview, the board chairman disclosed CPA never had a delinquent account with the government-controlled power corporation, as revealed by a review of the agency’s previous finances.

**Recruiter of 6 in fake dollar case nabbed**  
Relief for six illegal recruitment Filipino victims charged before the local and federal courts on allegations of counterfeiting some \$5,000 in US currency hopefully hangs by the arrest of their suspected illegal recruiter in the Philippines. Local police authorities yesterday received word that its Philippine law enforcement counterparts may have apprehended the perpetrator to the illegal recruitment scam: Emma Ragoyal Cabigting, along with an accomplice. Though reports of their arrest have yet to be confirmed, Police Commissioner Charles W. Ingram Jr. disclosed yesterday that local intelligence officials are closely collaborating with the Philippine Center for Transnational Crime Interpol to finally bring the pending case to a close.

March 14, 2002

**Embezzling lands ex-director in jail**  
A former Labor and Immigration director was sentenced Tuesday to three months imprisonment, after he pleaded guilty before the US District Court to having used government resources in placing overseas personal phone calls amounting to over \$16,000 between 1998 to 2000. Chief Judge Alex R. Munson, during a sentencing hearing, further ordered former DOLI-Tinian resident director Antonio Boki Evangelista, 39, to pay \$19,683.96 in restitution to the Division of Revenue and Taxation. As part of his sentence, the defendant will undergo three years of supervised release. Last August 2001, Evangelista, aided by court-appointed counsel Brien Sers Nicolas, agreed with the U.S. Attorney’s Office to enter a guilty plea on one count of “theft concerning programs receiving federal funds.”

**It is cyanide or not?**  
As government agencies pool efforts to prevent a chemical spill due to deteriorating storage containers at Marpi and Lower Base, the closure of the Marpi radar site has led to speculations as to what these chemicals might be. Efforts made by the Saipan Tribune to find out what chemicals may be contained in the deteriorating storage containers were in vain, as officials after officials denied knowledge of what these chemicals are. A Saipan Tribune source, who asked for anonymity, said the chemicals stored in Marpi include cyanide, a lethal substance. News sources, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said they’ve been receiving such information.

# Pacific

## Madoff sent to jail as angry victims applaud

NEW YORK (AP)—Careful to blame only himself, a “deeply sorry and ashamed” Bernard Madoff pleaded guilty Thursday to pulling off what could be the biggest, most spectacular swindle Wall Street has even seen, and was sent off to jail in handcuffs to the applause of his furious victims.

“I realized that my arrest and this day would inevitably come,” Madoff said in a courtroom crammed with many of the investors he cheated out of billions of dollars. The 70-year-old financier could get up to 150 years in prison at sentencing June 16 on 11 counts, including securities fraud and perjury. He could also be fined and ordered to pay restitution to his victims and forfeit any ill-gotten gains.

In a long, detailed statement delivered in a soft but steady voice, Madoff implicated no one but himself in the vast Ponzi scheme. He said he started it as a short-term way to weather the early-1990s recession and was unable to extricate himself as the years went by.

“I am actually grateful for this opportunity to publicly comment about my crimes, for which I am deeply sorry and ashamed,” Madoff said in his first public comments about his crimes since the \$65 billion scandal broke in early December.

The scandal turned a well-respected investment professional—Madoff was once chairman of the Nasdaq exchange—into a symbol of Wall Street greed amid the economic meltdown. The public fury toward him was so great that he was known to wear a bulletproof vest to court.

U.S. District Judge Denny Chin promptly revoked the \$10 million bail that had allowed Madoff to remain free since he confessed to his sons three months ago. In ordering him jailed, the judge said Madoff had the means to flee and an incentive to do so because of his age.

The court appearance came as a disappointment to many of Madoff’s investors, who hoped to hear him say who might have helped him pull off the scam, and where the money went.

Because Madoff pleaded guilty as charged, without any kind of deal with prosecutors, he is under no obligation to cooperate with them. As a result, some legal experts and others have speculated that he is sacrificing himself to protect his wife, his family and friends.

“He’s trying to save the rest of his family,” said investor Judith Welling. “We need to find out who else was involved, and

we need, obviously, to freeze the assets of all those people involved to help the victims.”

There was a smattering of applause after the judge announced Madoff would go directly to jail—the drab, windowless high-rise Metropolitan Correctional Center next door to the courthouse to await sentencing. But that did not lessen his victims’ anger or satisfy their desire for retribution.

“So he spends the rest of his life in jail—is that justice? People’s lives are ruined,” said Adriane Biondo of Los Angeles, one of five members of her family who lost money with Madoff. “He’s sitting in jail? That’s awesome,” she said sarcastically. “Where’s the money, Bernie?”

DeWitt Baker, an investor who attended the hearing and

said he lost more than \$1 million with Madoff, said: “I’d stone him to death.”

Prosecutors gave assurances they are investigating Madoff’s wife and other family members and employees to deter-

mine what role, if any, they played in the scam.

“A lot of resources and effort are being expended, both to find assets and to find anyone else who may be responsible for this fraud,” federal prosecutor Marc Litt said.

In court documents, prosecutors put the amount of the fraud at \$64.8 billion. However, experts said that the actual loss was probably much less and that the higher number reflects the false profits Madoff told investors they were making. So far, authorities have located only about \$1 billion for investors.

Prosecutors have already said low-level employees in Madoff’s New York offices participated by mailing out tens of thousands of phony monthly statements and trading confirmations to make it look as if customers were making money in the market.

Some investors suspect their money ended up in the hands of Madoff’s wife, Ruth. She was not in court. But the mere mention of her name drew jeers and laughter.

In one instance, defense lawyer Ira Sorkin was describing how Madoff had, “at his wife’s own expense,” paid for security at his \$7 million penthouse in Manhattan. Loud laughter erupted among some of the more than 100 spectators crammed into the courtroom on the 24th floor of the federal courthouse in lower Manhattan. There was more snickering when Sorkin mentioned Mrs. Madoff’s “small residence in France.”



Madoff



# Nation

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Tenn. church shooter hoped attack would spur more

**KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP)**—An unemployed truck driver seething over liberalism told police he opened fire in a church last year because it harbored gays and multiracial families and he hoped others would follow his example. Prosecutors opened their case file Thursday on Jim David Adkisson, 58, who pleaded guilty a month ago to killing two people and wounding six others at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville. The file includes interviews with investigators and a suicide note Adkisson left in his car. Now serving a life sentence, Adkisson told police during an hour-long interrogation three hours after the July 27 shooting that he was unemployed, depressed and ready to take his anger out on what he called “an ultra-liberal” church that “never met a pervert they just didn’t embrace.”

### La. company selling cottages damaged by hurricanes

**JACKSON, Miss. (AP)**—A Louisiana company is selling quaint cottages at rock bottom prices, but there’s a catch—they were originally built as temporary housing for Mississippi victims of Hurricane Katrina, then flooded by Hurricane Gustav last year. State officials have condemned them, saying they’re not safe to live in. But Henderson Auctions of Louisiana said Thursday it will auction the 233 shotgun-style homes despite the objections of Mississippi officials who say they’re uninhabitable and should be sold only as scrap. The cottages, which once dotted the Mississippi coast, are at a facility in Bay St. Louis. Henderson Auctions intends to sell them in Livingston, La., April 25 to the highest bidder. There is no minimum bid and they can be bought individually. The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency paid about \$34,000 for the smallest one-bedroom cottages. There are also cottages as big as 840 square feet with as many as three bedrooms.

### Utah lawmakers approve sweeping liquor law changes

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)**—Utah lawmakers on Thursday approved the most sweeping changes to the state’s liquor laws in 40 years in an effort to boost tourism and make the state appear a little less odd. The Legislature eliminated the state’s private club system, which requires customers to fill out an application and pay a fee for the right to enter a bar. Bartenders in restaurants also will be allowed to serve cocktails directly over bar counters instead of walking around them. Utah is the only state in the country with either law. Gov. Jon Huntsman has said he’ll sign the bill into law, and once that happens, bars can open their doors to the public on July 1. Currently, a partition known as a “Zion Curtain” separates bartenders from customers. The term is a nod to the state’s religious history as the Land of Zion in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which tells followers to shun alcohol.

## Obama confronts Dem skepticism on economic plans



President Barack Obama greets business leaders after speaking about the economy at a roundtable discussion in Washington, Thursday, March 12, 2009.

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Confronting misgivings, even in his own party, President Barack Obama mounted a stout defense of his blueprint to overhaul the economy Thursday, declaring the national crisis is “not as bad as we think” and his plans will speed recovery. Challenged to provide encouragement as the nation’s “confidence builder in chief,” Obama said Americans shouldn’t be

whipsawed by bursts of either bad or good news and he was “highly optimistic” about the long term.

The president’s proposals for major health care, energy and education changes in the midst of economic hard times faced skepticism from both Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill, as senators questioned his budget outlook and the deficits it envisions in

the middle of the next decade.

But Obama, speaking to top executives of the Business Roundtable, expressed an optimistic vision and called for patience.

Richard Parsons, chairman of beleaguered Citigroup Inc., asked if Obama could offer some help in a national battle “between confidence and fear.”

“A smidgen of good news and suddenly everything is doing great. A little

## Pelosi dodges chance to end automatic pay raises

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Congress’ automatic pay raises are in little immediate danger of being scrapped for good, even with the economy slumping and millions of Americans unemployed. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Thursday would not commit to holding a vote on a bill to do away with the annual cost-of-living increases. She pointed out that Congress recognized the economic crisis by voting this week to skip next year’s raise.

In so doing, though, lawmakers defeated a Senate measure to abolish the automatic pay hikes and force them into the deep discomfort of casting actual votes to give themselves raises.

No one is rushing to defend the current

system in a tanking economy that has rendered the annual raise a quaint memory for many outside Washington.

Even inside the Beltway, President Barack Obama has frozen pay for about 100 White House workers making six-figure salaries—an acknowledgment that appearances matter to a financially fragile nation.

But scrapping Congress’ own automatic, cost-of-living raises for good? That’s where congressional leaders drew the line this week—and buried it beneath an avalanche of legislative process, blame-passing and rhetoric.

Competing proposals on the Senate floor earlier in the week effectively canceled each other out.

Sen. David Vitter, a Louisiana Republican with personal issues that could threaten his re-election, talked of adding a ban on automatic congressional raises to a \$410 billion spending bill already passed by the House.

Great idea, alleged Majority Leader Harry Reid, who’s also facing a tough re-election fight next year. But adding the pay issue to the bill would mean sending it back to the House, and that could kill the whole thing, Reid said.

Reid’s problem, as he described it, was with the process and not scrapping automatic pay raises. In fact, Reid said, congressional raises shouldn’t be automatic. So he proposed an alternative: a bill all its own almost identical to Vitter’s.

## FBI cited for poor Freedom of Information work

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The FBI tells two out of every three Freedom of Information Act requesters that it can’t find the records they asked for—a failure rate five times higher than other major federal agencies, a private study has found.

The FBI’s performance results from an outdated and deliberately limited search process, according to the National Security Archive, a private group that publishes declassified government documents and files many FOIA requests.

The Archive awarded the FBI its Rosemary Award for the worst Freedom of Information Act performance by a federal agency. The award is named for former President Richard M. Nixon’s secretary Rose Mary Woods, known for re-enacting her claim to have accidentally erased 18 1/2 minutes of a White

House tape recording when she stretched to answer a phone. It’s given annually around Sunshine Week, when journalism organizations promote open government and freedom of information.

“The FBI knowingly uses a search process that doesn’t find relevant records,” Archive director Tom Blanton said Thursday. “Not only does this woeful performance lead to unnecessary litigation, but the bureau apparently uses the same searches in its criminal investigations as well.”

The Archive said FBI records show that over the past four years the bureau told 66 percent of requesters—37,342 out of 56,530 requests—that it found no responsive records. The 33 large federal agencies which receive the bulk of all FOIA requests responded that way only 13 percent of the time on av-

erage, the archive calculated.

In 2008, only 89 requesters, 0.5 percent of the year’s total, got everything they asked for from the FBI; 2,276, 13 percent, got part of what they sought.

David Hardy, chief of the FBI’s FOIA section, has said the bureau checks FOIA requests against the names on an electronic index of its files.

The electronic index contains names of individuals, organizations, companies, publications, activities and counterintelligence programs. It includes the main name for each file and other names in the file—or cross-references—that case agents think might be useful in the future, but not all names in every file. The electronic index for searching only goes back to 1980s; earlier records have to be searched by hand on paper.

bit of bad news and oohh, we’re down on the dumps,” Obama said. “And I am obviously an object of this constantly varying assessment. I am the object in chief of this varying assessment.”

“I don’t think things are ever as good as they say, or ever as bad as they say,” Obama added. “Things two years ago were not as good as we thought because there were a lot of underlying weaknesses in the economy. They’re not as bad as we think they are now.”

“And my long-term projections are highly optimistic, if we take care of some of these long-term structural problems.”

But in Congress, Obama’s budget plans were meeting resistance.

Sen. Kent Conrad, the chairman of the Budget Committee called the track of future deficits “unsustainable” and singled out Obama’s proposal for adding \$634 billion in health care spending over the next 10 years.

“Some of us have a real pause about the notion of putting substantially more money into the health care system when we’ve already got a bloated system,” said Conrad, D-N.D.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, testifying before Conrad’s committee, also encountered blunt questions about the administration’s plans for shoring up the nation’s banks. He reiterated the administration’s goal to lay out a private-public partnership to make up to \$1 trillion in financing available to help banks clear their books of toxic, mortgage-related assets that have led to a national credit freeze.

## Officials: Ala. shooter depressed over failures

**SAMSON, Ala. (AP)**—Investigators found dozens of soot-covered DVDs on how to commit acts of violence in the charred Alabama home where a man killed his mother at the start of the worst massacre in state history, a county official said Thursday.

Authorities say Michael McLendon, 28, set his mother’s body on fire Tuesday afternoon at the home they shared in the isolated community of Kinston. He later killed nine more people, four of them family members, before fatally shooting himself.

Coffee County District Attorney Gary McAliley said investigators found 30 or 40 violent CDs and DVDs in the home and are trying to find out who manufactured them. He said they appeared to be serious, not a joke.

“There was one DVD on how to shoot into a moving car,” McAliley said. One of the victims was driving when he was shot and killed.

McAliley also said McLendon had a permit for two pistols he took with him during the rampage but no license for two assault rifles he used as he squeezed off some 200 rounds.

Officials with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said agents were tracing the weapons to find their source.

McAliley had said earlier that McLendon, whose parents had divorced, appeared to have had a dispute with family members over a family Bible. But he said he now believes “there’s no merit” to that idea.



# Asia

## Wen vows to save economy, defend Tibet

**BEIJING (AP)**—China's premier defended his government's policies in Tibet and its handling of the economic crisis Friday, promising more stimulus measures if needed to boost growth and maintain public confidence.

In his sole news conference of the year, Premier Wen Jiabao stressed that a half-trillion-dollar stimulus program would revive the buoyant growth dragged down by the global downturn and create jobs and provide social welfare to cope with worsening unemployment. He pointedly called on Washington to protect the value of Chinese holdings of U.S. Treasuries and other debt, estimated to be worth about U\$1 trillion.

More than painstakingly explaining policies, the precise, scholarly Wen tried to convey the message that Beijing was confident it could withstand the turmoil. He used the word confidence five times in as many minutes at the start of the nationally televised news conference.

"Confidence is more important than gold and money," Wen



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao gestures during a news conference after the closing ceremony of National People's Congress in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, China, Friday, March 13, 2009.

told reporters in the Great Hall of the People. "First and foremost, we have to have very strong confidence. Only when we have strong confidence can we have more courage and strength and only when we have courage and strength can we overcome the difficulties."

Wen is the most popular figure in the usually remote com-

munist leadership. Sometimes referred to as "grandpa Wen," he is frequently shown on state television touring the country, talking with farmers in the countryside. As such, his popularity is a boon for an authoritarian government that in part relies on its popularity to impress sometimes recalcitrant local officials to carry out Beijing's policies.

## Japan protests North Korea's satellite launch plan

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—Japan sharply protested North Korea's planned satellite launch, warning Friday it could shoot down the rocket after Pyongyang said it would fly over Japan and designated a "danger" zone off the country's coast.

North Korea has given U.N. agencies coordinates forming two zones where parts of its multiple-stage rocket would fall, unveiling its plan to fire the projectile over Japan toward the Pacific Ocean in the launch set for sometime between April 4-8.

One of the "danger" zones where the rocket's first stage is expected to fall lies in waters less than 75 miles (120 kilometers) from Japan's northwestern shore, according to coordinates

released by the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization on Thursday.

The other zone lies in the middle of the Pacific between Japan and Hawaii.

In Tokyo, Chief Cabinet Secretary Takeo Kawamura told North Korea to abandon the rocket plan and said Japan was ready to defend itself.

"We can legally shoot down one for safety in case an object falls toward Japan," he said.

Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada said Japan would "deal with anything that is flying toward us. We are preparing for any kind of emergency."

Japan's prime minister also expressed anger.

"They can call it a satellite or whatever, but it would be a violation" of a 2006 U.N. Security Council resolution banning Pyongyang from ballistic missile activity, Taro Aso said. "We protest a launch, and strongly demand it be canceled."

Japan's Coast Guard and Transport Ministry issued maritime and aviation warnings, urging ships and aircraft to stay away from the affected regions.

South Korea also warned Pyongyang.

"If North Korea carries out the launch, we believe there will be discussions and countermeasures from the Security Council," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement, referring to possible sanctions.

High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres' visit to the country that began Saturday. The group's plight gained widespread attention earlier this year following reports from the Indian Navy that hundreds were believed to have drowned after being sent out to sea in rickety boats by the Thai military. Other Rohingyas were detained after landing in Thailand, and more came ashore in Indonesia, fanning regional concern they could become an economic burden.

### Sri Lanka: At least 15 rebels killed in fighting

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)**—Sri Lankan soldiers killed at least 15 Tamil separatists in several battles aimed at capturing the last rebel enclave in the island's war-ravaged north, the military said Friday. The army has ousted the Tamil Tigers from most of their strongholds in a hard-fought offensive the government hopes will end the South Asian island's 25-year civil war. Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said army troops found the bodies of 15 guerrillas killed in fighting Wednesday and Thursday. He did not provide details of any casualties suffered by government troops. On Thursday, soldiers captured the last remaining medical facility held by the rebels in the north.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Pakistan blocks anti-government demonstrators

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)**—Pakistan's opposition leader predicted President Asif Ali Zardari would not last his full five-year term in office as police Friday turned away another convoy of protesters trying to reach the capital for a major anti-government demonstration. Authorities have detained several hundred political activists and lawyers in recent days, seeking to thwart a protest movement that is challenging the government's shaky one-year rule just as the West wants to see Pakistan unite and fight against al-Qaida and Taliban extremists. Activist lawyers are demanding Zardari fulfill a pledge to reinstate judges fired by former President Pervez Musharraf, a general who ousted opposition leader Nawaz Sharif as prime minister in a 1999 coup. The protest movement heated up last month when the Supreme Court banned Sharif and his brother from elected office.

#### UN to increase focus on Myanmar's Muslim migrants

**YANGON, Myanmar (AP)**—The U.N. refugee agency said Thursday it would increase its focus on areas of Myanmar from which Muslim migrants have recently fled. The announcement came after

# World

## Scientists warn of 'irreversible' climate shifts

**COPENHAGEN (AP)**—Hundreds of leading scientists warned Thursday that global warming is accelerating beyond the worst predictions and threatening to trigger "irreversible" climate shifts on the planet.

Saying there's no excuse for inaction, the nearly 2,000 climate researchers meeting in Copenhagen urged policy-makers to "vigorously" implement the economic and technological tools available to cut emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases.

Their stark message came at the end of a three-day conference aimed at updating the findings of a 2007 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change before U.N. talks in December on a new

global climate treaty.

"The worst-case IPCC scenario trajectories (or even worse) are being realized," the scientists said in a statement. "There is a significant risk that many of the trends will accelerate, leading to an increasing risk of abrupt or irreversible climatic shifts."

The climate change panel predicted a sea level rise of 7 to 23 inches (18 to 59 centimeters) by the end of the century, which could flood low-lying areas and force millions to flee. But more recent research presented at the conference suggested that melting glaciers and ice sheets could help push the sea level up at least 20 inches (50 centimeters), and possibly as much as 39 inches (1 meter).

"Recent observations show that societies are highly vulnerable to even modest levels of climate change with poor nations and communities particularly at risk," the statement said.

It noted that policy-makers already have a range of tools to mitigate global warming. "But they must be vigorously and widely implemented to achieve the societal transformation required to de-carbonize economies," it said.

The conclusions of the congress will be presented to politicians when they meet in Copenhagen in December to discuss a new global agreement on greenhouse gas emissions to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012.

## German police suspect chat room posts were faked

**WINNENDEN, Germany (AP)**—The psychological profile of a teenager who went on a shooting spree at his former school and killed 15 people began to take shape Thursday, as investigators described a withdrawn young man from an intact family who broke off psychiatric treatment for depression.

But investigators faced a setback as they struggled to authenticate a chat room posting that purportedly warned of a bloody rampage hours before

17-year-old Tim Kretschmer wreaked havoc on this quiet town near Stuttgart, southwest Germany.

Kretschmer returned to his former high school on Wednesday to kill nine students and three teachers before fleeing on foot and by car, killing three more people, and eventually turning a 9 mm Beretta pistol on himself after a shootout with police.

A joint statement released late Thursday by regional police and

Stuttgart prosecutors said that, "in the course of the afternoon, doubts arose about the veracity of the Internet chat."

Police spokesman Klaus Hinderer said a search of Kretschmer's computer had shown no trace of his having made the chat room posting.

A message posted Thursday to the site—krautchan.net—said, "No killing spree was announced here." Prosecutors said they were trying to reach the U.S.-based provider of the site.

## Iraqi who threw shoes at Bush jailed for 3 years

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—A court convicted an Iraqi journalist of assault Thursday for hurling his shoes at George W. Bush and sentenced him to three years in prison, prompting an outburst from his family and calls for his release from Iraqis who consider him an icon for a nation decimated by war.

Muntadhar al-Zeidi, 30, defiantly shouted, "Long Live Iraq!" when the sentence was imposed, according to defense lawyers. Some of his relatives collapsed and had to be helped out of the courthouse. Others were forcibly removed by guards after shouting "Down with Bush!"

"This judiciary is unjust," al-Zeidi's brother, Dargham, said tearfully.

Other family members shouted insults against Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who like al-Zeidi is a Shiite.

Although al-Zeidi received the minimum sentence—it could have been 15 years behind bars—his lawyers denounced the verdict and said they would appeal, possibly hoping a public outcry would aid their cause.

Al-Zeidi's brazen act during a Dec. 14 press conference by Bush and al-Maliki in Baghdad's Green Zone turned the young reporter into a folk hero

across the Arab world, where the former U.S. president is reviled for invading Iraq in 2003 and for other policies.

Many Iraqis interviewed after the verdict believed the sentence was too harsh and that al-Zeidi was a hero for standing up to the American president. Supporters defended his act as a political statement in Arab culture, where throwing shoes at someone is considered an especially serious insult.

But protests on al-Zeidi's behalf have drawn few participants since December, and there was no sign of spontaneous rallies Thursday after the noontime verdict.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Pope: Vatican made errors in Holocaust denial case

**VATICAN CITY (AP)**—Pope Benedict XVI has made an unusual public acknowledgment of Vatican mistakes and turmoil in his church over an outreach to ultraconservatives that led to his lifting the excommunication of a Holocaust-denying bishop. In an attempt to end one of the most serious crises of his papacy, he said in a letter released Thursday that the Vatican must make greater use of the Internet to prevent other controversies. The Vatican took the rare step of releasing the German-born pope's personal account of the incident addressed to Catholic bishops around the world. Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi said the letter—released in six languages—was "really unusual and deserving of maximum attention." It recalled his apology in 2006 after his remarks linking Islam to violence caused a storm in the Islamic

world. He said then he was "deeply sorry."

#### Canada helicopter carrying 18 ditches in Atlantic

**ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland (AP)**—Canadian rescuers searched freezing waters for 16 missing people Thursday after a helicopter heading to Atlantic oil fields reported mechanical problems and ditched in the sea off Newfoundland. Of the 18 people aboard, one man was rescued and one body was recovered. Officials said the others were missing about 30 miles out to sea. There were no signs of more survivors hours after the 8 a.m. EST accident, but rescuers were holding out hope since those aboard were believed to be wearing survival suits, which serve as life preservers and retain body warmth in frigid waters. "We'll continue to search until there is absolutely no chance that any survivors may be located," said Maj. Denis McGuire of Halifax's Rescue Coordination Center.



# Maharlika

## PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, March 14, 2009

IN CNMI AND OTHER PARTS OF THE GLOBE

# Low turnout in absentee voter registration

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Only 117 Filipinos in the CNMI have so far registered for absentee voting since registration began on Feb. 1, Philippine Consul General in the CNMI Wilfredo DL. Maximo told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The low voter registration turnout is not only happening in the CNMI but in all other parts of the world where Filipinos work and live, and the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs cites the infamous “manana” habit or procrastina-

tion as the reason for it.

As of March 9, only 15,234 overseas Filipinos worldwide registered for the overseas absentee voting since registration began on Feb. 1 to be able to vote in the May 14, 2010, presidential polls.

The Philippine government needs at least 166,666 registrants every month to reach its target of one million overseas registrants until registration ends on Aug. 31.

In the CNMI, the low turnout is attributed mainly to a number of Filipinos going back home after their employment contracts were not renewed as busi-

nesses either shut down or cut manpower due to the economic slowdown.

The Philippine Consulate General in the CNMI puts the estimate on the number of voter registrants this year at 7,000.

“That is a very optimistic number because of the downturn in the economy... We’re crossing our fingers that the number of registrants will increase toward the end of the registration in August,” Maximo said.

The 2010 national elections would be the third time Filipinos

abroad will participate in elections in the Philippines while away from home.

Filipinos abroad are allowed to vote for senatorial candidates and party-list groups during the local and congressional polls, and during national elections, for presidential and vice-presidential candidates, in accordance with the Philippine Republic Act 9189, or the Absentee Voting Act of 2003.

The Philippine government had hoped that more Filipinos will register because the 2010

elections is a presidential—rather than a mid-term—election.

### 2,110 names purged from list

As of yesterday, the names of 2,110 Filipinos in the CNMI who failed to cast their vote in the 2004 and 2007 elections were removed from the list of registered voters, Maximo said.

“Those who feel that they’ve been dropped from the list because they didn’t vote in the last two elections and still want to take an active part in the political process in the Philippines should register before the deadline of Aug. 31,” Maximo added.

Those who voted in both or at least one of the previous polls do not need to register.

However, those who would like to verify whether their name is still on the list of registered voters are encouraged to personally check with the Philippine Consulate General on the fifth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (formerly Nauru Building) in Susupe.

Voter registration is from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday, and is open during lunch hours.

Maximo said Filipinos need to bring their original passport and a photocopy of it when registering.



Maximo

## CNN honors Filipino as modern day hero

A 27-year-old Filipino worker who grew up near the slums of Cavite has been named a “CNN Hero” as part of the news network’s program honoring ordinary people accomplishing extraordinary feats around the world.

Efren Peñaflorida Jr., who organized Dynamic Teen Co. as a teenager to bring education to unschooled and neglected street children, was featured on CNN’s Larry King Live last Friday, March 5.

Born to Efren Sr., a tricycle driver, and Lucila Geronimo, a housewife, Peñaflorida grew up near the city’s open dump, where he played and swam near the garbage.

Although he was harassed and threatened by gangs that terrorized his school, Peñaflorida realized early on that many less fortunate children didn’t have his opportunity to go to school.

At 16, he recruited three high school friends to go to the slums

on Saturdays to teach younger kids. The group, which began as a club to keep students from joining gangs and notorious fraternities that were thriving on campus, has become a 10,000-strong volunteer force that has tutored some 1,500 children from the slums.

Peñaflorida teaches at a private school in Cavite City and still accompanies volunteers to the slums every Saturday.

Peñaflorida is the third of about 32 CNN Heroes to be unveiled this year.

A blue ribbon panel will then select the top 10 CNN Heroes before the public selects the “CNN Hero of the Year” by voting at the CNN Heroes site ([www.CNN.com/Heroes](http://www.CNN.com/Heroes)).

At a year-end gala, CNN will honor the 10 heroes and reveal the “CNN Hero of the Year,” who will receive \$100,000.

In its second year in 2008, CNN Heroes received nearly 4,000 submissions from 75 countries. ([goodnewspilipinas.com](http://goodnewspilipinas.com))

## 2009 remittance to fall on economic woes

**MANILA, Philippines** (Reuters)—Cash sent home by Filipinos living and working abroad will likely fall this year for the first time since 2001 as the global downturn threatens jobs and squeezes wages across the globe, a Reuters poll shows.

The median forecast of 10 economists was for remittances to drop 6.0 percent this year, the biggest fall in nine years, and translating to about \$15.4 billion.

The central bank has project-

ed the size of remittances this year will be steady following seven straight years of double digit growth.

The Reuters poll forecasts ranged from no change to a fall of 20 percent.

“The downside on OFW (overseas Filipino workers) remittances is understated at the moment because people are still looking at positive growth,” said Joey Cuyegkeng, an economist with ING bank.



AP PHOTO/BULLIT MARQUEZ

### ‘BINIBINING PILIPINAS’

Winners for this year’s Binibining Pilipinas (Miss Philippines) beauty pageant pose following their coronation at Manila’s Quezon city early Sunday, March 8, 2009, in the Philippines. They are, from left, Regina Hahn, 2nd runner-up, Melody Gersbach, who will represent the Philippines in this year’s Miss International, Pamela Bianca Manalo, who will represent the country in the Miss Universe, Marie Ann Umali, who will represent the country in the Miss World and Richell Angalot, 1st runner-up.

## Migration up despite economic crisis

**MANILA, Philippines** (AFP)—Tens of thousands more people are leaving the Philippines to work abroad despite the global economic downturn which was expected to hit overseas employment, the labor department said Tuesday.

Departures by jobseekers rose 25 percent from a year earlier to 165,000 in January, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration administrator Jennifer Manalili told reporters.

“As of end-January, we have deployed 165,000 and that’s higher than last year -- and also considering that there is crisis,” she added.

She said the data was the opposite of what the government had expected, following the return of several thousand laid off electronics workers mostly from Taiwan last year.

Manalili said the government was evaluating which jobs have disappeared since the economic

slowdown gathered pace last year. About 8.5 million Filipinos temporarily work abroad and their remittances have become a major pillar in supporting the economy.

“We are in the process of collating the data now and we will have the final report before the end of this month,” she added.

Labor Secretary Mariano Roque announced on Monday that 39,000 jobs had been lost in the Philippines over the past four months.

## DFA to help family in Japan deport case

**MANILA, Philippines**—The Filipino family that faces deportation from Japan will receive help from concerned government agencies when they reintegrate back to Philippine society, the Department of Foreign Affairs said Thursday.

“The DFA and other concerned agencies are ready to extend humanitarian and other assistance to the Calderon family, including their reintegration into Philippine society, contingent on the results of the proceedings underway in Japan with respect to that country’s implementation of its laws,” said DFA Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Esteban Conejos in a text message.

The Calderons, whose 13-year-old daughter Noriko was born in Japan and raised to speak only Japanese, refused to leave that country after authorities there found their years’ long stay was illegal.

Conejos said the immigration case of Arlan and Sarah Calderon was being closely monitored by the department.

“The Philippine embassy in Tokyo is in touch with the family on the matter of their residency status,” he said.

The teenage daughter has opted to stay in Japan, complicating the deportation proceedings of her parents. The Japanese Ministry of Justice has given Noriko the option of going back to the Philippines with her parents or to remain in Japan.



# 2010 race too close to call, says Pulse survey



Fernando



Escudero



Binay



Estrada



Legarda



Roxas



Villar



de Castro



Lacson

**MANILA, Philippines**—The presidential election scheduled for May 2010 is anybody's game, according to a survey by the private polling firm Pulse Asia Inc.

Had the election been held last month, it would have been a "very close race" among four likely candidates—Vice President Noli de Castro, Sen. Francis Escudero, former President Joseph Estrada and Sen. Manuel Villar.

A Pulse Asia survey in February found "nearly the same overall voter preferences" for De Castro (19 percent), Escudero (17 percent), Estrada (16 percent) and Villar (15 percent).

Sen. Loren Legarda also scored a double-digit overall voter preference at 12 percent.

Others included in the survey who obtained single-digit overall voter preferences were Senators Manuel "Mar" Roxas II (8 percent) and Panfilo Lacson (6 percent), Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay (2 percent) and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando (1 percent).

"But while Filipinos continue to be divided in their choice for the country's next president, virtually all of them have a favored

presidential candidate, with less than 1 in 10 (4 percent) not expressing support for any of the nine individuals included in this survey's presidential probe," Pulse Asia said in a statement released Thursday.

The survey noted that across geographic areas and socioeconomic classes, Escudero was the preferred presidential candidate in Metro Manila (27 percent) and among Class ABC respondents (23 percent), while Villar had an "edge" in the Visayas (25 percent).

In Mindanao and among Class E respondents, De Castro (24 percent and 19 percent, respectively) and Estrada (23 percent and 20 percent, respectively) enjoyed "almost the same level" of electoral support.

In Luzon outside Metro Manila, respondents were "almost equally supportive" of De Castro (19 percent), Escudero (17 percent), Estrada (17 percent), Legarda (15 percent) and Villar (14 percent).

De Castro also had a "slight lead" over the other probable candidates among Class D respondents at 20 percent.

"The overall figures recorded in February 2009 do not differ significantly from those posted in

October 2008," Pulse Asia said.

## As scheduled

The latest survey also found that most Filipinos (65 percent) were convinced that the May 2010 general elections would be held as scheduled—a sentiment shared by "small to big majorities" (55 percent to 76 percent) across all areas and classes.

Only 13 percent believed otherwise, and 22 percent were undecided on the matter.

Fifty-one percent were also of the opinion that the postponement or cancellation of the elections would cause "much trouble" in the country—a view also held by "small majorities" (51 percent to 56 percent) across areas and classes, except in Mindanao where only 44 percent expressed the same view.

## Two-way contest for VP

The survey also found that the vice presidential race continued to be "a two-way contest" between Escudero and Legarda.

Twenty-six percent said they would vote for Escudero had the May 2010 elections been held last month, while 22 percent said they would support Legarda.

"These two legislators enjoy

nearly the same levels of electoral support in the rest of Luzon (25 percent versus 23 percent), the Visayas (28 percent versus 23 percent), Mindanao (21 percent versus 19 percent), Class D (25 percent versus 23 percent) and Class E (22 percent versus 24 percent)," Pulse Asia said.

However, Escudero had an edge over Legarda in Metro Manila (30 percent versus 22 percent) and among Class ABC respondents (36 percent versus 14 percent).

De Castro, the only other personality with double-digit vice presidential voter preference, had 14 percent.

Jinggo leads senatorial preferences

As for likely senatorial candidates, the survey found that Filipinos were already naming their preferred candidates.

Pulse Asia noted that, of the 65 names whose senatorial voter preferences were probed in the survey, 16 had "a statistical chance of winning," had the elections been held last month.

"Virtually all Filipinos have at least one preferred senatorial candidate," Pulse Asia said.

Among the leaders in the survey were Senators Jose "Jinggo" Estrada (52.8 percent), Pia

Cayetano (48.8 percent), and Roxas (48.8 percent).

Pulse Asia placed Estrada anywhere from first to third place, while Cayetano and Roxas were in first to fourth place.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago (47 percent) had a statistical ranking of second to fifth place, while former Sen. Franklin Drilon (42.7 percent) was in fourth to seventh place. Senators Ana Consuelo "Jamby" Madrigal (38.8 percent) and Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. (37.8 percent) could land anywhere from fifth to 11th place, Pulse Asia said.

Sharing the sixth to 12th spots were Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III (36.1 percent), National Economic and Development Authority Director General Ralph Recto (35.5 percent), former Sen. Sergio Osmeña III (33.8 percent), and Optical Media Board Chair Edu Manzano (33.4 percent).

## 12th to 16th place

Dangerous Drugs Board Chair Vicente C. Sotto III (31.2 percent) was in the eighth to 16th places, while Pulse Asia placed broadcaster Korina Sanchez (28 percent), Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile (27.6 percent), Binay (27.2 percent) and Sen. Richard Gordon (26.9 percent) were in 12th to 16th places.

The survey was conducted from Feb. 2 to Feb. 15 using face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adults. It had a margin of

error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

In a statement, Escudero said the results of the survey were "definitely flattering, but I am not yet a declared candidate."

He will turn 40 in October, a constitutional requirement before a natural-born Filipino can run for president.

## Not congratulations

However, in an interview with radio dwIZ's Cely Bueno early in the day, Escudero jokingly said that it was not a "congratulations but condolence" because topnotchers in surveys were the usual targets of political attacks.

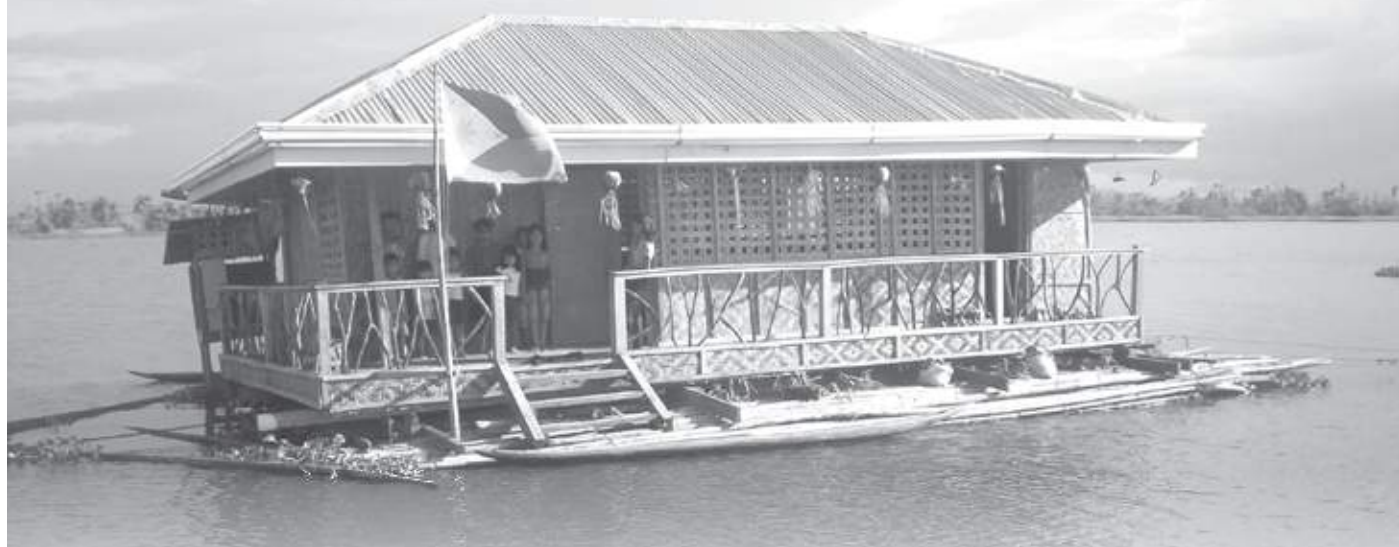
Legarda also gladly welcomed the survey. "I continue to be inspired by the people's overwhelming love in my provincial trips," she said.

Noting that the nationwide survey showed no clear winner in the presidential election if it were held last month, she said: "What the opposition needs to do is to unite so that numbers are not divided."

Villar said he was elated by the people's continued support for and confidence in him, as this "shows the people's appreciation of our work as a public servant."

"Certainly, it fuels our commitment to help more of our kababayan (countrymen) here and overseas," Villar said. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

## Huge crocodile kills 10-year-old in Philippines



In this photo released by the non-government organization Save Mindanao Volunteers, the floating Mihaba Floating Literacy Center is seen Wednesday, March 11, 2009 on Mihaba Marsh, Agusan Del Sur province in southern Philippines.

AP

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP) — A huge crocodile knocked over a canoe in a southern Philippine lake and decapitated a 10-year-old girl, police said.

The girl and a classmate were on their way to their floating school on Mihaba Lake in Agusan del Sur province when the crocodile bumped the boat, causing it to capsize, Bunawan

town police officer Melchor Danuco said Wednesday.

The attack happened on Saturday but it wasn't until Monday that rescuers found the girl's headless body floating on the lake.

The classmate was rescued by a man escorting the pair in another boat, said Ruel Hipulan, head of the private group that runs the school in the remote town.

"It's a monster crocodile," Hipulan said, adding that officials were hunting the animal following the attack.

Police said that, based on accounts of villagers, the crocodile might be as long as 7 meters (23 feet), which would be huge, even for the large salt water crocodiles known to inhabit the lake.

Attacks are rare. But the lake's

waters have been swollen for the past several months, causing fish to scatter to others parts. With little to feed on, the crocodiles have become aggressive, he said.

The crocodile attack has prompted the temporary closure of the school and the evacuation of about 100 residents of houses on stilts on the lake, Hipulan added.

## U.S. & CNMI IMMIGRATION LAW

**Bruce L. Mailman & Maya B. Kara**

**FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION**

**Call for Appointment**

**(670) 233-0081**

Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC  
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl. Derence Jack Rd.,  
Garapan, Saipan

**BRUCE L. MAILMAN** is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

**MAYA B. KARA** is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer



# Philippines enacts law claiming disputed islands

By JIM GOMEZ  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)** — The Philippine president has signed a law affirming sovereignty over islands also claimed by China and Vietnam, an official said Wednesday, sparking protests over the control of strategic South China Sea islands.

The legislation, signed Tuesday by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, reaffirms Philippine sovereignty over the more than 7,100 islands in its archipelago, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said. It also claims outlying islands in the Spratly chain and Scarborough Shoal — two regions in the South China Sea.

China claims sovereignty over both chains. Vietnam and others have long laid claim to the Spratlys.

“We are sending the message to the whole world that we are affirming our national sovereignty ... our national interest,” Ermita told a news conference.

The Chinese Embassy issued a statement expressing its “strong opposition and solemn protest” over the signing of the law, and insisted China “has indisputable sovereignty over these islands and their adjacent waters.”

Earlier, China’s Foreign Ministry summoned a Philippine Embassy official to protest the passage of the bill in the Philip-



## ANTI-VFA PROTEST

Leftist students try to prevent police from pushing them away from the U.S. embassy during a rally Friday, March 13, 2009 in Manila, Philippines. The students demanded the immediate cancellation of the Visiting Forces Agreement, the joint military exercise between Philippines and the U.S. and condemned the President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s government for failing to jail a U.S. Marine convicted of rape to a regular detention center.

pine Congress.

Vietnam also urged the Philippines to refrain from taking action that might complicate the dispute.

Foreign Affairs official Henry Bensurto said the Phil-

ippines passed the law not to reiterate its claims over the Spratlys and Scarborough Shoal but to define the baseline used to determine its extended continental shelf.

The U.N. has asked the Phil-

ippines and other countries that signed the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea to submit the dimensions of their claimed continental shelf by May 13. The convention, which came into force in 1994, defines the maritime limits of its signatories.

The Spratlys, believed to be rich in oil, gas and fish, consist of about 100 barren islets, reefs and atolls dotting the world’s busiest shipping lanes in the South China Sea.

Vietnam, China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei each claim all or part of the low-lying islands.

# Filipinos make their mark on Google Maps

By JANIE CHRISTINE OCTIA  
INQUIRER.NET

**MANILA, Philippines**—Filipinos are now helping shape Google Maps.

Thanks to Google Map Maker, an application introduced in October 2008, Filipinos are now creating virtual maps of the Philippines on this virtual world, a Google executive said Thursday.

Google Map Maker is a software application that lets users add, edit and moderate maps. This application encourages users to also provide comprehensive, high-quality and updated maps, as well as local content.

“I think we’ve seen a huge amount of interest from Filipino users and there has been a huge amount of progress already. With the Philippines’ cultural and geographic diversity—and over 7,000 islands, there is absolutely a long way to go,” said Derek Callow, Google’s Head of Marketing for Southeast Asia, told INQUIRER.net.

Callow said Google Map Maker edits have come from a diverse group of local users, reflecting the overwhelming response of Filipinos to collaborate online and share knowledge about their communities and neighborhoods.

A user-generated content platform, Google Map Maker still goes through verification. As Wikipedia is to generating user-generated online encyclopedia, Google Map Maker is to user-generated map-making. Users can edit street-level data, landmark tags and business

establishments. Once all these information are added, users from around the globe can view them.

To date, Google said that updated and accurate maps of several provinces in the Visayas and Mindanao Region, including key tourism areas in the country, are available for viewing.

“Foreign tourists need information about places. Having local information from the Visayas and Mindanao, it is a big help for those unfamiliar with the area. Foreign tourists usually search on the Internet for information. They look for maps. With Google Maps Maker, tourists are able to find [information] from the locals themselves,” said Bernard Arellano III, one of the top Filipino contributors in Google Map Maker.

Arellano, who traces roots back to Iloilo, said he has been collaborating with other Google Map Maker users to improve the streets and key landmarks in the province.

Updating the Philippine map on Google Maps is a continuous work as places continue to evolve, Callow said.

“There is no specific timeline on updating information from Google Map Maker to Google Maps. The core thing for us internally is to make it as quickly as possible and it really depends on the volume of edits. Our promise to users is that when they contribute, we want to make sure it gets rolled out to Google Maps so that in turn their expertise and knowledge is of benefit to as many users as possible,” Callow said.

# Peso to continue on free float—BSP

**MANILA, Philippines (Reuters)**—The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the country’s central bank, will keep its policy of allowing the peso to float freely in the market and will intervene only to smoothen wild swings, gov-

ernor Amando Tetangco said on Friday.

“The policy is to allow it to move according to market forces,” Tetangco told reporters in response to news about the Swiss National Bank intervening to weak the franc. “The cen-

tral bank only tries to minimize or reduce volatility.”

On Thursday, Switzerland’s central bank stunned markets by intervening to weaken the Swiss franc, raising concern it could spark a round of competitive devaluations.

## TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY

# Helping Mom and Dad during tough times

*Editor’s Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.*

**Question: Both my parents are already in their 70s. Although they do not have any major obligations since all three of us children are already married with families of our own, I somehow see the struggle they have financially. How can I best help them given my limited funds? I am not able to support them fully since I am also taking care of my family’s needs. — Myra**

**Answer:** It’s good that you are concerned with your parents and how they are coping at this time in their lives. It’s challenging enough to be at their age, likely retired with no income and living on their savings. But add to this the present effects of the global financial crisis, and they may be in even tougher times.

Since it is their finances that you are worried about, you have to put away any discomfort you may feel, and go sit down with your parents. Find the right time and gently talk to them to gauge just how they are doing financially. Tell them that you would like to help but would need to know some facts so you can act accordingly.

Here are some guide questions you may ask

your parents:

1. What are your usual expenses monthly?
2. How are you able to pay for them?
3. Do you have any savings or investments? How much return do these give you?
4. Do you have an emergency fund? If so, how much and where is it invested?
5. Do you have any debts? If so, name your creditors and the amount you owe them.
6. What are your other assets? Are these in your name?
7. Do you have any receivables from other parties? How much do they owe you and when do you expect payment?
8. Do you have life and health insurance?

Your parents may be worried, so let them know that you understand where they are coming from. Reassure them that you are willing to help, although you will not be able to extend full financial support given your family’s needs.

After they have answered your questions, suggest ways they can handle their money better. Here are some suggestions:

1. Encourage them to make a budget. Have them write down all their usual expenses monthly so they can see at a glance how much they need to live on every month. Tell them to prioritize those that are important (examples: medicines, medical checkups) and minimize spending on what are not essential. In effect, teach them to distinguish

between needs and wants and prioritize needs.

2. If they still get regular income, ask them to save at least 10 percent of their income for future needs.
3. In case their income is not enough to pay for all their expenses, go over their expenses and help identify those that can be cut down.
4. Talk with your siblings so you can share the responsibility of paying for some of your parents’ expenses. For instance, you may be able to share the cost of groceries or medicines, or the services of a driver or house helper.
5. If you see that they are in debt, encourage them to look around and sell any idle asset whose proceeds can be used to pay off the debt.
6. If people owe them money, find out if they are exerting effort to collect on these debts. Help in collection efforts if you can.
7. If all their savings are kept in a savings account, encourage them to consider putting some of these that they will not immediately need in a time deposit so it will earn more interest. In view of recent industry developments, look into the stability of their bank as well.
8. If they have life and health insurance, go over the policies and review with them the features. They may not know, for instance, that certain medical procedures may be covered by their insurance. If their life insurance policy has a return of premiums benefit, it may be a good time to avail of that now so they can use the funds for their needs.

9. There are a few insurance companies that offer limited health insurance to the elderly. Find out more about these products and avail of them for your parents if they sound good.

10. Help them get their financial papers in order, from SSS, GSIS and PhilHealth records to bank documents, investment instruments, and insurance policies. Remind them to keep these in a safe but accessible place.

11. Bring them to a financial adviser, or to money management seminars so they can get further tips on how to handle their finances.

12. Surprise them with a treat. They may not want to spend on fancy dinners, vacation trips or even new clothes. Treat them once in a while to show them your love.

By extending both financial help and assistance in managing their finances, you may be able to help your parents enjoy their remaining years. Do it while there’s time.

*Disclaimer: Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader’s reliance on information obtained from our web site. INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal\_finance@inquirer.net*



# Maharlika – PinoyStyle

## FrancisM raged before seeing the light

By **MARINEL CRUZ**  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—The ravages of cancer “brought out the worst” in Francis Magalona, especially in the first few months, before he accepted his fate.

“He cussed, which only made him feel worse,” his widow Pia recalled in her eulogy during Mass on the final night of the wake on Tuesday.

“Later on, he learned to do away with those words. He realized that the less he got angry, the easier for the pain to go away. On his last days, he had learned to accept the disease,” she told friends, family and fans at the Christ the King chapel in Greenmeadows subdivision, Quezon City.

Pia recalled that when her husband could no longer bear the pain, his anger melted into apologies: “I’m sorry, Mama, I got sick.”

Hailed as a pioneer of Pinoy rap music, FrancisM, 44, was cremated at 1 a.m. Wednesday at Funeraria Paz in Quezon City.

Later in the afternoon, his ashes were interred beside the tombs of his parents, former movie stars Pancho Magalona and Tita Duran, at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

FrancisM died on March 6 of complications arising from acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) at The Medical City hospital in Pasig City.

The multimedia artist was preparing for a stem cell transplant at the time of his death. His doctors described AML as “the worst kind” of cancer that at-



tacks the bone marrow.

### Lullaby

At Tuesday’s necrological service, the officiating priest, Fr. Alberto Ampil, S.J., wondered: “Francis has gone away. Why him? No answer can lessen our grief and diminish our sorrow.”

Ampil later sang the English version of “Brahms’ Lullaby” for the departed.

In her eulogy, Pia particularly thanked TV producer Tony Tuviera—whose noontime show “Eat ... Bulaga!” had FrancisM as a co-host for more than 10 years—for shouldering the cost of his chemotherapy sessions and hospitalization.

“I know you want to be very private about this. I just want to say that when you told Francis that all he had to concentrate on was to get well, light shone in his eyes. It gave him hope. It gave him reason to fight for his life,” she told Tuviera.

### Saab’s dream

Comedian Michael V, FrancisM’s colleague on “Eat ... Bulaga!” and said to be his best buddy when it came to enjoying video games, comic books and toys, painting and photography, was choked with emotion: “Bro, Francis, Kiko, Idol, I love you so much. I will think of you every day for the rest of my life.”

The Magalona children led the offertory and liturgical readings. Singers Regine Velasquez, Ciara Sotto, Ogie Alcasid and Gary Valenciano, among others, performed solemn musical pieces.

Daughter Maxene, 22, broke into tears when she said: “I wasn’t prepared for that day (when he died). I don’t think I can let go. I just wish I had spent more time with him.”

Saab, 20, said she had dreamt of her dad on the night of March 6, hours after he died: “In my dream, he was driving around happily. I’m glad he took time to tell me that he’s already in heaven.”

“When he was still alive he would always ask me to do music or model for him. I feel so bad that I never found the time to do those things with him.”

Saab said she recently had three stars and a sun—symbols on the Philippine flag which her dad honored in song and through his line of signature shirts—tattooed on her back as well.

### Making Papa proud

Francis Jr., 21, a Fine Arts student at the University of the Philippines, recalled how happy his father was when he showed him his mini-thesis.

Elmo, 14, a high school student, said he hoped to finally make his Papa proud when he graduates next year.

Stepdaughter Unna thanked Magalona for treating her and brother Nick “like the other kids.”

Stepson Nick added: “He probably loved me more than my (real) dad did. He was my father, best friend and hero.”

The rest of the Magalona children—Arkin, 9, and Clara, 8—sat quietly beside their mother during the service.

Also present were FrancisM’s sisters Vicky, Susan, Maricar and Pye.

## Third film for Sarah, John Lloyd planned

By **MARJORIE GOROSPE**  
INQUIRER.NET

**MANILA, Philippines**—“Miggy and Laida’s love story will have a part three,” Star Cinema managing director Malou Santos announced during the victory party for the movie “You Changed My Life,” featuring Sarah Geronimo and John Lloyd Cruz earlier this week.

Upon hearing the announcement, director Cathy Garcia-Molina was emotional, saying that having done the sequel was already a big blessing and if the part three would pursue, she said it was an honor.

“Given the chance to rank from one to ten, ten being the highest—I’m on that level (of being grateful) but more than grateful, I would say it’s scary in

way,” said Molina.

Earning P170 million in two weeks, the Star Cinema-Viva Films co-production surpassed box office records, earning the biggest gross in the shortest time. It also earned P18 million on its opening day alone, surpassing its first installment, “A Very Special Love,” which earned P14 million when it was released.

## Woman who stalked Barretto’s kid nabbed

By **JULIE M. AURELIO**  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—The National Bureau of Investigation has filed unjust vexation charges against an avid “Juday” fan who allegedly pretended to be a friend of Claudine Barretto in order to kidnap the actress’ daughter Sabina.

Joanne Castro was nabbed on Friday evening in the vicinity of Robinson’s Specialty Stores Inc. in Libis, Quezon City, for allegedly calling up the school of Barretto’s daughter, claiming that she was a friend of the actress and had gifts from fans to give to Sabina. Ms. Barretto filed the complaint with the NBI.

The Quezon City prosecutors’ office, through assistant city prosecutor Vesta Victoria Giner-Villamor, has recommended a P2,000 bail for the suspect’s temporary liberty.

In a complaint filed by the National Bureau of Investigation, Castro was

slapped with unjust vexation due to lack of evidence to charge her with attempted kidnapping.

In a two page affidavit submitted to the NBI, Raymart and Claudine Barretto-Santiago alleged that a certain “An-

naliza Reyes” called the school of their daughter, Sabina, and tried to convince the girl’s “yaya,” Merly Basco, that Reyes was a churchmate of Barretto.

“Reyes” allegedly claimed that she recently came from the United States and that she had gifts from Barretto’s fans, which “Reyes” wished to give to Basco, with Sabina tagging along.

The “yaya,” however, refused and referred the woman to Barretto’s secretary, Lanilyn Caparros, who said in a separate affidavit that she did not know “Reyes.”

The celebrity couple said they were so alarmed that Barretto “immediately rushed to Sabina’s school to personally pick her up for fear of a possible abduction of her daughter.”

“Reyes” allegedly called Caparros the following day to ask for personal information about the Santiagos, claiming that she was a close friend of the couple and that they belonged to the same church.



## Glaiza warned against Patrick

By **MARINEL CRUZ**  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Against Baptists.

### Cool, funny

But does she like Patrick to be her boyfriend?

“I can answer that only if I know him enough,” Glaiza answered. “Right now, things are still blurry with him ... But I think Patrick is a cool person. I didn’t know he could be funny.”

Glaiza has never had a boyfriend. While she goes out on dates, she’s not yet ready to commit to anyone. “Ayos lang ako na ganito,” she said. “Commitment entails a lot of risks. I’m not ready for that. I know I’d eventually fall in love. When I do, it’d be worth the wait.”

Why is she cautious with Patrick?

“I know what my friends have gone through. A lot of them split up with their boyfriends in the end, kahit matagal silang magkasama,” Glaiza explained.

Glaiza starred in a supporting role in the GMA 7 fantaserye “Gagambino,” which aired its final episode on Feb. 20.

She’s also appearing in two indie films—one of which is “4-5,” where she plays the mole to a hired assassin. It is a project of US-based Filipino filmmakers Dan and Brandon Relucio.

Glaiza is presently shooting “Rak-enrol,” director Quark Henares’ take on life growing up in the rock scene and his personal experience in forming a band.

**MANILA, Philippines**—Glaiza de Castro said she is “always cautious” when it comes to dealing with rumored suitor Patrick Garcia.

The 21-year-old actress admitted that fans and “concerned friends” have warned her of Patrick’s being a bad influence on her. Tabloids also report stories of Patrick’s alleged involvement in drugs and gambling.

But on the other hand, Glaiza is giving Patrick the benefit of the doubt. “I will only believe those stories only if I’m presented with proof. I don’t prejudge a person,” Glaiza told a group of writers at the recent launch of Facial Plus, which she endorses, in Cubao, Quezon City.

Patrick, 26, has a son with estranged girlfriend Jennylyn Mercado. He and Glaiza became friends when Patrick invited her to watch the Rihanna-Chris Brown concert in October.

Since then, they have gone out to watch movies or visit the malls. “But never just the two of us. He would always bring his friends, or I’d bring mine,” Glaiza clarified.

She added that Patrick occasionally goes to her house, “but only upon the invitation of my elder sister. Recently, Ate (a pastor’s wife) asked him to join us in one of our Bible study sessions.” Glaiza belongs to a family of Born



# Maharlika – Opinyon

## The rise and fall of the hemline

**T**he global financial crisis, now upgraded by the International Monetary Fund into a “Great Recession,” has been linked to a great shift in the fashion world: the plunge of the women’s hemline.

Bernard Salt, a noted demographer, has said in a lecture in Melbourne that a “Great Hemline Shift” is taking place amid the recession, reviving theories on the link between fashion and severe economic circumstances. The most famous of these theories was advanced by US economist George Taylor in 1926 (prior to the Great Crash of 1929), who posited that women’s hemlines rose in good times and fell in bad. Do you see the miniskirt now?

There are other theories associated with bad economic times. He points out that more recently the US chair of Estée Lauder argued that lipstick sales rose in a recession, the argument being that “when women cannot justify spending money on big-ticket fashion items they indulge themselves in a range of quality lipsticks.” (This theory awaits confirmation from impressionistic observation.)

Another recession myth is under the spotlight. Writing for the Australian newspaper, Salt says that last June Britain’s Independent newspaper carried a report that Japanese social researchers had found “a positive correlation between women’s hairstyles and economic performance.” He adds:

“The logic is that when women can’t spend money on clothes, they choose a hairstyle that offers greater scope for variety and you can do much more with short hair than long hair... The point is that there is an expectation that recessions drive different consumer behavior... There is a different psychology for consumer behavior in a recession that I think would very much play out in the fashion business.

### EDITORIAL

## Getting worse

**I**t is worse than we feared. According to the Asian Development Bank, the global financial crisis has erased some \$50 trillion from the value of financial assets in 2008. The estimate is the key finding of a commissioned study that calculated the fall in the value of financial assets in currency, equity and bond markets worldwide. “This is by far the most serious crisis to hit the world economy since the Great Depression,” said ADB president Haruhiko Kuroda.

“We are all Keynesians now,” US President Richard Nixon famously said, over three decades ago. It is safe to say that if there were some doubts then, there are hardly any now. Today, almost all economists agree that some form of government stimulus spending is needed to arrest the momentum of the crisis. The question is how much.

The International Monetary Fund has asked governments to allocate 2 percent of GDP for fiscal stimulus programs this year and next. It is a level US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner finds “reasonable”—and this weekend he will call on the so-called Group of 20 nations to “commit substantial and sustained actions” to contain the crisis and jump-start economic recovery. But Geithner’s much more influential boss, US President Barack Obama, has already signed a massive spending bill into law and launched an enormous rocket of a first budget into orbit—and yet the markets in the United States and in other developed economies remain decidedly earthbound. It is worse than we—all of us—feared.

Have the agents of stimulus, the prophets of expenditure, lost their nerve? Perhaps it really is worse than we all feared.

The famous economist Amartya Sen, writing in New York Review of Books, sums up the situation we have dug ourselves into: “The present economic crisis is partly generated by a huge overestimation of the wisdom of market processes, and the crisis is now being exacerbated by anxiety and lack of trust in the financial market and in businesses in general—responses that have been evident in the market reactions to the sequence of stimulus plans.”

In other words, that Keynesian kick in the pants is mighty long in coming.

Sen, who won the Nobel Prize in economics in 1998, suggests we need to converse, not only with the ghost of John Maynard Keynes, but also with the more obscure specter of Arthur Cecil Pigou.

“Pigou was much more concerned than Keynes with economic psychology and the ways it could influence business cycles and sharpen and harden an economic recession that could take us toward a depression (as indeed we are seeing now).”

Even more urgent than a crash course in economic psychology, however, we need a Pigou for his work on economic inequality—a daily fact for more and more victims of the crisis.

There is a greater urgency now, not only to stimulate spending, but to care for those the crisis has left undone. It is worse than we feared.

© Philippine Daily Inquirer

“During the economic boom the fashion industry was geared around the notion of the individual as celebrity.

“The reason is that in a boom we are confident in who we are, in our employability, and perhaps even in our desirability. As a consequence, we look for fashion that enables us to stand out in the crowd.”

Design and designers quickly evolved during the boom to emphasize the quirky and the individualistic, Salt noted.

“Regardless of whether hemlines went up or down in the late 1990s, they mysteriously shifted from horizontal to daringly angled. Some hemlines were even jagged. I can remember at the time of this Great Hemline Shift being greatly puzzled as to why a woman would have a ‘deliberately crooked hem.’

“The deeply subliminal answer was that the design had already achieved its end: The wearer was being noticed. She stood apart from the crowd. It could even be argued that the use of gel to spike hair is part of a broader fashion conspiracy to showcase the individual, since no two spiked hairdos are exactly the same.

“But with the recession comes a different set of driving forces. No longer is there an inherent desire to stand apart. Instead the driving need is quite the opposite: it is to fit in.

“In a threatening world we want to retreat to the safety of the herd, the tribe, the family, the community. How many times have you heard world community this year? And during the boom, how often did you hear about the need to celebrate our wonderful individuality?

“In a scary world, those making the case for individuality would be viewed as being a tad frivolous, what matters is unity and community.”

In another part of the world, in Tanzania, these thoughts of an international community all hooked up in the recession were echoed in a grimmer platform. Speaking at an anti-crisis meeting, IMF managing director Dominique Strauss Kahn told delegates that “the

IMF expects global growth to slow below zero this year, the worst performance of our lifetimes.” He urged wealthy Western countries to maintain financial support for low-income nations. He warned that there was now “a real risk that millions will be thrown back into poverty” across the African continent and that the economic crisis raises “the real threat of civil unrest, perhaps even war.”

In Melbourne, Salt said that if his assessment was correct, the hottest fashion colors of the recession are likely to be those that offer the greatest range of hues on a single theme: some black, brown, grey (or should that be “midnight,” “earth” and “slate”).

In Manila a few months ago I observed that the dominant colors of women’s dress were black and white, brown and grey. Could this be a reflection of the grim mood that has engulfed the world as the recession deepened?

“In such a world, garment structure would cease to signal the quirky and the off beat, but rather it would reinforce the inherent value and strength of conformity,” Salt wrote. “A return to traditional design should do the trick. Recession

hemlines, on the other hand, would be different, ramrod straight and neatly tucked into their right position.

“Perhaps the recession-inspired need for conformity goes further than the possible use of traditional lines in garment design... I believe that ripped and torn jeans have been a powerful symbol of the boom: ‘I stand apart because my jeans do not conform.’... Perhaps during the recession, designer ripped jeans will subside in favor of traditional styles. The reason is this: In a boom a designer rip is your connection to artful bohemia, whereas in a recession it just looks poor.

“If you put all of this together you have the recession driving new consumer behavior in fashion, with women wearing bright lipstick, short hair and long straight hemlines in a traditional couture constructed in earthy hues.”



### Analysis

By AMANDO DORONILA  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

## Rizal’s unfinished work

**T**he weather bureau has spoken. Based on the high temperatures we have had to endure the past few days, summer is officially here. We still have some strong, cool winds to make life pleasant but in the heat of the concrete jungle plus the emissions from cars, I dread to imagine what Holy Week will be like in April.

I know I should be reading devotional works since Ash Wednesday, but I was drawn to the anti-friar works of Marcelo H. Del Pilar and Graciano Lopez-Jaena, and while searching for something timely, I ended up with a little known work by Jose Rizal that is highly recommended for Lenten reflection.

This unfinished, untitled and undated work is known under many names: “Friars and Filipinos,” “The Divine Wrath” and “The Lord Gazes on the Philippines.” One of the Spanish titles assigned to it happens to be “Una visita del Señor a Filipinas” (A visit of the Lord to the Philippines) or the totally unimaginative “Principios de una novela satírica” (The beginnings of a satirical novel). The original manuscript of this work is in the vault of the National Library. It was acquired from the heirs of Mariano Ponce before World War II.

There are actually two manuscripts. One has about 35 folios or leaves of ruled paper, each measuring 21 x 35 cm in bound manuscript, and only 31 leaves have writing on them. The other comprises 12 “cuartillas” [one-fourth sheets] measuring 20.5 x 17.5 cm. Writing is on only one side of the papers, except for the last two leaves, thus making 14 pages. So much for the obscure bibliographic details that are of interest only to librarians or scholars.

Rizal’s story begins with God the Father pacing about in Heaven, turning his attention to the universe where he hears many complaints from a group of islands that turns out to be the Philippines. He listens to the complaints and decides to act, but when he consults various people in heaven, including Confucius and Buddha, He is told that the source of the problem happen to be “friars” and that there is a person called the Pope who claimed to speak for God on Earth. Eventually God traces the complaints to the Christian Church and summons Jesus Christ and St. Peter to explain how and why this state of affairs came about. Not satisfied with their rather evasive answers, God commands Jesus and Peter to return to Earth and make a report on the Philippines and these so-called friars.

Naturally, both were not inclined to obey because the last time they were on Earth they were both crucified. God assures them that this trip will not entail another round of suffering on the cross or anywhere else.

Before they could prepare for the trip, God hurls the pair back to Earth. But because he has bad pitching aim that day, Jesus and Peter do not land in Manila but appear instead in Hong Kong.

There the two realize that they are not incognito; they appear in late 19th-century Hong Kong wearing New Testament attire! So they rush to a tailor to have suits made. They inquire about the Philippines and how to get there. They are surprised and disappointed to find out that they need a passport and a visa from the Spanish consulate in Hong Kong to make the trip by steamer to the Philippines.

They arrange everything and eventually arrive in Manila. Both are in a hurry to get their report done and return to Heaven, but things keep getting in the way. This time it is Customs

and Immigration in Intramuros in the place formerly known as Aduana (which has, after four centuries, been renamed Andres Soriano Street). The passengers are quarantined, adding to their impatience. Worse, Peter goes through Customs without a problem, but a surly examiner asks Jesus to open his bag and present it for inspection. Jesus starts to note all his observations in a pocket notebook for a report to God in Heaven, but even this is taken from him and when his intemperate remarks are found, he is detained.

Naturally, Jesus complains about the shabby treatment he received and gets branded a subversive by the authorities. Peter manages to escape

and once he is outside the Aduana, he goes near a window to listen as Jesus is being interrogated. At this point he is not only relieved to escape detention, Peter realizes it was daytime so he does not have to hear the cock crow twice again.

Then Peter remembers that there is a statue of him in the Manila Cathedral and since the Pope and everyone else trace their authority all the way back to him, he feels certain that he will get help here. So off Peter goes to the Manila Cathedral.

Unfortunately, the novel ends abruptly here, just when the action is supposed to begin.

This unfinished work is such a waste. It makes us wonder how Rizal would have developed the story further and how he would have ended it. He left a large crater in the corpus of Philippine comic or satirical literature.

Could this have been the third novel after the “Noli” and the “Fili”? Was this something else? We will never know, but the drafts are a delight to speculate on. *Sayang* is the only word I can find to describe this loss, but then that is how it is.

Comments are welcome at [aocampo@ateneo.edu](mailto:aocampo@ateneo.edu).



### Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



# Maharlika-Samu't Sari

## OFWs: From belly of luxury ship to top deck

By MA. CERES P. DOYO  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

From boiler room to ballroom, from stage to spa, from poolside to pantry, from bar to fine dining. From the belly of the luxury ship to the topmost deck where one could see forever and behold the azure sea and sky of the Mediterranean.

Overseas Filipino workers rule the roost, so to speak, aboard the cruise ship *Brilliance of the Seas* because of their sheer number and also because of their skills, talent, dependability and graciousness. Filipinos comprise about 60 percent of the 853-strong crew that is composed of 51 nationalities.

"Here I earn the combined salaries of four teachers and three security guards in the Philippines," reveals Jerry Dioneo, 36, who works in the dining section. Dioneo who hails from Silay City in Negros Occidental has been on the ship for about three years and is on his fourth contract. Only the Filipino nationals, Dioneo adds, are compelled to allot and remit 20 percent of their earnings to their folks back home. This is stipulated in their contracts.

And what is work like on cruise days? "Every day here is a Monday," Dioneo chirps as he replenishes the cornucopia of food for the guests.

Victoriano Camacho, 46, of Calamba, Laguna, has been with the cruise company for 16 years and is now the sous chef (assistant of the executive chef). He started out at the Nikko Hotel in Makati. Now he earns \$2,600 a month.

About \$1.7 billion of the total \$10.8 billion remitted by OFWs in 2005 came from the sea-based OFWs. The number of Filipino seafarers working abroad as of 2005, is about 250,000 or approximately 20 percent of the world's total.

### 'White List'

The rise in the number could be attributed to the inclusion of the Philippines in the International Maritime Organization's "White List" of 72 accredited countries. Being on the list means the country has continuously complied with the standards required for competent seafarers.

Being a Filipino seaman or seafarer does not necessarily mean working in cargo ships sailing drearily on a gray sea and being cooped up, fighting ennui until land appears on the horizon. A good number of the sea-based OFWs work in cruise ships. These luxury liners cater to vacation-bound, fun-loving, adventure-seeking humans, people who work hard and play hard, or who just want to be out of reach and listen to the music of the ocean, heeding the cruise logo catchphrase that says, "Get out there." One could also choose to get holed up in the ship's library.

The three-year-old German-built *Brilliance of the Seas* belongs to a fleet of cruise ships of the Royal Caribbean International that sails in Europe, North America and the Caribbean. It has a passenger capacity of 2,500.

The Filipino seamen and women working on board are there to help make good things happen. The job is demanding as cruises involve service, hospitality, food, fun, travel, safety and, most of all, people.

### Earning from tips

Bar server Vergie Mompil, an education course graduate, has spent eight years working on several cruise ships. Her husband, Edwin Vicero, also works in another cruise ship, *Jewels of the Sea*.

Those in food service are not paid the fixed salary rate that workers in



The *Brilliance of the Seas* cruise ship.

other sections receive. Food and drink servers like Vergie receive only \$50 per 12-day cruise but the tips (provided for in the bill) earn her about \$1,000. Two cruises per month or more than 10 cruises in a six-month contract mean a lot when remitted to the Philippines. "After six months, we go on a two-month break," Vergie adds.

Vergie is stationed at the bar in the main lobby ballroom at the foot of a luminous stairway where guests in formal wear linger to chat or dance to music provided mainly by—you guessed it—Filipino musicians.

Vergie and her husband have a 3-year-old child who is being cared for by two aunts. The couple is building a home south of Manila and planning for a hardware store.

Not everyone is in the direct employ of RCI. Hoffman Roscano, 27, married, works as a photographer of a photo agency that operates aboard the ship. He and several photographers have their hands full during formal dinners and evening activities as well as land tours. During special occasions, they set up a mini studio where guests in their glittering "Titanic" finery could go for a formal shoot. Guests snap up the photos the morning after. Roscano also receives commissions

from the sales.

### 'Better than 5-star salary'

Karen del Carmen, in her 20s, works as a beauty therapist in the Brilliance Day Spa operated by an agency. A tourism graduate of a college in Bacolod, she had a work stint in a hotel in the Philippines after which she applied in a maritime agency. The spa company hired her and sent her to London for training.

"Better than a five-star salary," is how del Carmen describes what she earns. After every 12-day cruise she gets two days off. "It's fun working here," she says as she looks up from her desk in the spa's lavender-scented receiving area.

Nights are busy for the musicians who play in different venues aboard the ship. John Neri, 24, regales the night owls with violin music. As a child he studied music under a scholarship program for the musically gifted.

Neri met his wife in another cruise ship. Married for four years now, the couple is building a house in Kalookan City.

### 'Oye como va'

Although now U.S.-based, Vicky Gallarde of Vicky and The Holding Company band still calls the Philippines home.

It's a rollicking night when the band plays for a crowd with itchy feet.

Vicky switches without a hitch from lusty "Amor, amor, amor" to a staccato "Oye como va" while husband Chris and the rest segue from rumba to disco beat. The band is a ship mainstay.

The couple has a room for two of their own at the crew quarters. The standard rooms for two for the crew have TVs and computers with e-mail capabilities. The Filipinos also have a daily two-page news digest called *Philippines Today*. There is a bar as well as games and exercise facilities.

Edgardo Villarino, 42, studied music in the University of the Philippines and sang with the UP Concert Chorus. He is married with three kids. The *Inquirer* chanced upon Villarino playing soothing classic guitar music by the poolside.

He was in the Caribbean several months earlier and he remembers the day a hurricane blew around there. There are less "sea days" in the Mediterranean, he says, meaning, the ship docks often in tourist havens.

### Selling the Philippines

On his fifth contract now, Villarino says their own families could enjoy cruise privileges when there is space available.

And could the entertainers have some fun during the day? "If there are less than five guests using the pool, we could take a dip," Villarino says.

He dreams of cruises on Philippine waters that could rival those elsewhere. "We try to advertise the Philippines. Subic is so beautiful." He talks of an island in Haiti that Royal Caribbean had developed.

### Great workers

Bill Brunkhorst, American cruise director who makes sure entertainment is at its peak, has only good words for the Filipinos. "They are so talented and they learn very quickly," he says. "They're great workers."

The Greek ship captain Michael Lachtaridis, a seasoned sea voyager who has been sailing the seas for 33 years, says he has been working with Filipinos since the 1980s. "They get along well with other nationalities," he says. "They are very educated and they are a happy lot."

Whether it is instructing on wine tasting, giving beauty massages, serving at formal dinners, making omelets at the buffet breakfast, playing music, snapping photos amidst the Greek ruins, ensuring security and swiping cards at entry and exit points, disposing garbage or keeping staterooms clean, Filipino seamen and women are doing their best. And why not a Filipino guest chaplain or morgue attendant?

### The least seen

The least seen but perhaps the most important because they make the ship sail the distances are those who work in the belly of the ship or the engine room. The lives of those on board are practically in the hands of these experts in ship engineering.

The *Inquirer* descended to the grime-free hard hat area and met some of the Filipinos there. Jessie Hervilla, Estefanio Joel, Steve Flores, Ramon Cerio, Percival Dilag and so many more. Chief Junior Engineer Rasmus Norling of Sweden has only high praises for the men who are seldom seen on deck.

But life for the OFWs on board these cruise ships is surely not problem-free, as life anywhere is not. Are the OFWs on these so-called floating four-star, five-star hotels better off than their counterparts in cargo ships and oil tankers? What lies beyond those glittering nights and sunny days at sea? What awaits them in their homeland? What awaits Edward Pampis, Joselito Benito, Cipertino Apil, Arlene Salon, Susan Gatmaitan, Arthur Pernia, Julius, Mijares, Juanito Embolori, Edwin Miranda, Enrico Sabido, Victor Amuyang, Ronaldo Carreon, Ernita Villanueva, George Tardo, Joselito Benito...

Don't they feel resentful when they see food and drink flowing endlessly, people having so much fun and spending so much money for this kind of voyage, while they work so hard to keep these people thrilled and while they pine for home?

"Oh no," says a food server without a tinge of resentment. "Many of them have worked hard too. And because of them we have our jobs. Someday we too could enjoy something like this."

*This Inquirer reporter was a regular paying guest on this cruise. The ship sailed from Barcelona and back and stopped in several key places on the Mediterranean coasts of Spain, France, Italy, Greece and Turkey.*

## World-class RP seamen a force in Japan

Filipino seamen are world-class and over 70 percent of Japanese maritime operations are now manned by Filipinos.

Toshitaka Hagiwara, senior advisor of Komatsu Ltd., said this rousing statement during the 28th joint meeting of the Japan-Philippines Economic Cooperation Committee.

Hagiwara is JPECC chairman. Komatsu Ltd., for which he serves as senior advisor, is a world leading manufacturer and distributor of construction and mining equipment, utilities and industrial machineries. The company has been operating in the Philippines for decades.

"Over 200,000 Filipino citizens now live in Japan. In addition, and this is not so widely known, Japanese maritime shipping operations now rely on Fili-

pino sailors for about 70 percent of their crewmembers," Hagiwara said.

"Almost all major Japanese shipping companies have opened maritime crew training facilities in the Philippines, expecting to develop ready access to highly qualified Filipino sailors from hereon," Hagiwara said.

Under the JPEPA, Hagiwara said Japan also has widely opened its doors to Filipino nurses and caregivers.

Even before the ratification of JPEPA, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has likewise been acknowledging Japan's trust and confidence on Filipino seamen, many of whom have become management level ship officers such as masters and chief engineers.

Filipino seamen comprise a major

segment of the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) sector and have consistently been a major source of dollar remittances that help prop up the country's domestic economy for years now.

Doris Magsaysay-Ho, president and chief executive officer of Magsaysay Maritime Corporation, the largest manning company in the country, said there are over 28,000 Filipinos currently working on Japanese ships who remitted over more than \$3 billion last year.

With more than 25 years of maritime partnership between Japan and the Philippines, Ho said Filipinos now comprise 55 percent of the membership of the All Japan Seaman's Union and are classified as non-domiciled special members. ([goodnewspilipinas.com](http://goodnewspilipinas.com))



## DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory of the Late

## Richard Ernest Miranda

Born to life on August 28, 1945

Passed away on March 6, 2009  
at the age of 63.

**Wife:** Ailene A. Miranda  
**Mother:** Consuelo Ruelas  
**Father:** Christobal Miranda  
**Mother-in-Law:** Maui Arlay  
**Father-in-Law:** Dionisio Arlay  
**Brothers:** Leo, Hector  
**Sister:** Linda Stella  
**Sons:** Ricky, Robert Miranda  
**Granddaughter:** Britny  
**Adopted Children:** Arpil, Jolly, Maluo, Jr Miranda  
**Step Grandchildren:** Ariel, AJ

Last respect will be held on Monday, March 16, 2009 at  
CHC Chapel from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Christian Burial will follow  
at the Veterans Cemetery at 9:00 a.m. on the same day.

Thank You for your thoughts and prayers

THE FAMILY

## YoungStyle

## In new movie, Robb plays an out-of-this-world character

By STEPHEN LOWMAN  
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

AnnaSophia Robb is like a lot of other 15-year-old freshmen in high school. When she's not doing homework, she likes to read, shop and go to the movies with friends. But unlike most other teen-agers, sometimes AnnaSophia is actually in the movies. She played Violet Beauregarde in 2005's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and Leslie Burke in 2007's "Bridge to Terabithia."

Her latest movie, "Race to Witch Mountain," opens Friday. In it she plays an alien named Sara who comes to Earth with her twin brother to save the planet from destruction. AnnaSophia talked with KidsPost about the movie, acting and, of course, aliens.

**Q. What's "Race to Witch Mountain" about?**

**A.** It's about the life of a taxi driver in Las Vegas played by Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

One day two unusual teen-agers come into the back of the taxi. They turn out to be aliens, and they are on a journey to save Earth and their planet. There are explosions and alien assassins and U.S. government conspiracies.

**Q. How did filming this movie compare with your others?**

**A.** This is really the first action-adventure film I have ever done. When you are filming a scene day after day, it is hard to remind yourself (that) our characters are about to die and we have to save the world!

**Q. What's it like working with Dwayne Johnson?**

**A.** He is an amazing guy. We had such a fun time filming together. We were always cracking jokes, and he would always mess around with Andy Fickman, the director. We were just laughing constantly on the set, really.

**Q. Did you always want to be an actress?**

**A.** I did. I wanted to do it ever since I was a little girl. My mom found me an agent when I about 8, almost 9, because I was begging her to.

It all sort of started when I went out to L.A.

**Q. What are some of the cool things about being a famous actress?**

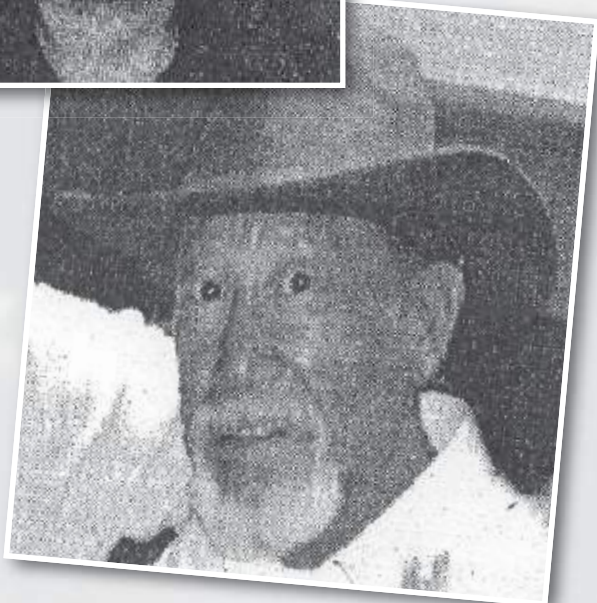
**A.** Fame was never really a goal of mine. I never really even considered that when I was young. I just wanted to act. All of a sudden there were these perks that I never, ever expected. I love meeting new people and going to new places. I have met some really passionate people who are really excited about what they do.

**Q. Do you have any advice for kids who want to go into acting?**

**A.** Your passion should drive you, not your motivation to be successful. Find an agent and just start auditioning for things. If you don't get a part, don't freak out. I like to think of everyone as a different type of candy. If you are a lollipop and they are looking for a Hershey Kiss, well, you are never going to be a Hershey Kiss. Just keep trying and eventually somebody will want a lollipop.

**Q. Since you play an alien, I have to ask: Do you think there is life on other planets?**

**A.** Our universe is so huge. I'd have to think there is some life on some other planet. And even if it's not (true), it's just fun to believe!



# For Our Loving Husband And Father Crispin Atalig Borja

Better known as "Crispin Koichi"

July 8, 1946 - March 7, 2009

"Was called home by our heavenly Father"

## Predeceased By:

Parents: Jose Quitugua Borja &amp; Francisca Atalig Borja

Parents in Law: Juan R. Mafnas

Sister & In Laws: Teresita Borja Jordan, Pedro C. Delacruz,  
Toshio Minatoya & Jesus P. Mafnas

## Lovingly Survived By:

Wife: Honghua Lu Boja (Lulu)

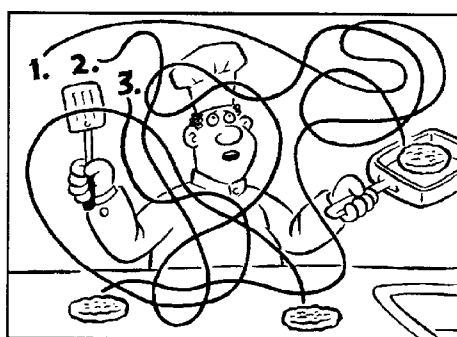
Son: Likun P. Borja (Brian)

Brother-in-Law: Fanghua Lu and Shenghua Lu

He is also survived by numerous family and friends.

Daily mass is being offered at 6:00 pm at San Antonio Church. Last respects will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2009, the body will leave Commonwealth Health Center at 8:00 am to San Antonio Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 9:00 am





**CALVIN, THE SHOWOFF CHEF,** is lucky if he can flip one out of three burgers into the pan. See if you can guess which was the lucky patty!

Answer: Number two was the one that made it to the grill.

**PUNCTUATION TIME!** All right, students, you have one minute to punctuate the sentence on the blackboard so that it reads correctly!

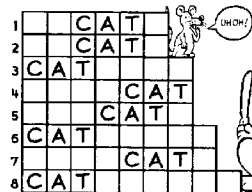
Answer: It was "and," I said, "or."

**CHAIN REACTION!** Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.

Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Soot, soon, sown, sows, sewn, sews, sees, seed.



### A "PURRFECT" WORD PUZZLE!



A perfect score on this quiz will "catapult" you to the head of the class. To the left is a stack of eight words, each of which contains the word "cat." Using the following hints, see if you can pounce on them in less than five minutes.

1. To find by searching.
2. To leave a job.
3. A list of things.
4. A type of mimic.
5. To provide knowledge.
6. Storage area for odds and ends.
7. To shorten by cutting off.
8. Two boats in one.

Answers: 1. Catalog, 2. Vocab, 3. Catalog, 4. Copycat, 5. Educate, 6. Catapult, 7. Truncate, 8. Catamaran.

© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

## Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was politician, liberal commentator and former comedian Al Franken who gave the following sage advice: "When you encounter seemingly good advice that contradicts other seemingly good advice, ignore them both."

■ Statistics show that for every 71,000 sky-diving jumps made, there is only one fatality. That might not seem surprising until you put it in context: You have a one in 20,000 chance of dying from a regular fall right here on solid ground.

■ If someone were to ask you to name the sunniest spot on Earth, you might be tempted to answer "the Sahara Desert" or some other such exotic place. You would be wrong, though; that distinction belongs to a town right here in America. Out of the possible 4,456 daylight hours each year, the sun shines for an average of 4,050 in Yuma, Ariz. That means that there's cloud cover or rain for only about 10 percent of the time there.

■ Floridians like myself are, unfortunately, familiar with large cockroaches, sometimes called palmetto bugs down South. While the bugs may inspire disgust, however, we should be glad we don't have to deal with their Paleozoic-era ancestors. Those who study such things say that cockroaches back then were the size of today's house cats.

■ During the 19th century, first lady Lucy Hayes, wife of Rutherford B. Hayes, the 19th president of the United States, was widely known as "Lemonade Lucy." It seems she was an ardent supporter of temperance and therefore didn't allow alcohol to be served in the White House during her husband's four years in office.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Whatever a man prays for, he prays for a miracle. Every prayer reduces itself to this: Great God, grant that twice two be not four." — Ivan Turgenev

(c) 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

## MAGIC MAZE • RE-WORDS

J S Q D N K I F D A X V T Q O  
M Y R R A M E R J H F C A D Y  
W U R P N O L J H F D N B E Z  
X V R T R Q L R O M K R T L I  
H K H E R E D E D I C A T E F  
R C N D S B E S R Z T E V B Y  
W E T I V T L T T S R L X A Q  
O N L A H L O A E K O E I L I  
H F D I M T S R C S A R M E Z  
X W V U V E E T E N I L E R S  
N E K A T E R R R Q O N R M K

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Rededicate	Relive	Resolved	Restore
Relabeled	Reload	Resolve	Retaken
Relearn	Rematch	Restart	Rethink
Reline	Remix	Restate	

© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

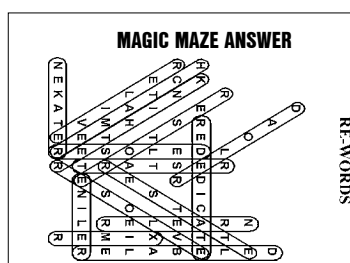
**DIFFICULTY: ★ ★**

★ Moderate ★ ★ Difficult  
★ ★ ★ GO FIGURE!

	+		x		15
-		+		x	
	x		-		10
x		÷		-	
	÷		x		15
18		3		13	

1 2 3 3 4 5 6 8 9

© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



RE-WORDS

**GO FIGURE ANSWER**

15	3	3	8	1	
15	5	x	3	÷	6
	-		÷		x
10	6	-	8	x	2
	x		+		-
15	3	x	1	+	4

## Foreclosures take toll on owners and pets

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** I have a cousin who needs help finding a good home for her three dogs. Her house is being foreclosed on, and she is struggling to find a place to live on a limited income. She has no car, her telephone will only call locally and her computer is on the blink. We contacted the no-kill shelters in our area, but none of them has ever responded. Where else can we find help?—Desperate in Desert Hot Springs, Calif.

**DEAR DESPERATE:** The foreclosure crisis has created another crisis in its wake: pets being abandoned by owners who are no longer able to care for them due to financial difficulties, because pets are not allowed in the residences they must rent or other factors.

Shelters are near or at capacity in the best of times, and these times are certainly not the best. However, you should continue to try and contact local no-kill shelters. If you can call beyond the local area, become your cousin's advocate and call shelters for her daily until someone responds.

Another avenue is to advertise in the local circular that the dogs are available. However, do not say that the dogs are free to a good home. There are reasons for this, which unfortunately I don't have room to list in today's column. Instead, ask for an amount that will cover veterinary and transportation costs for each dog. Insist upon meeting the potential owners. More informa-



tion on giving up a pet can be found at: <http://www.northbay-canine.org/lasteresort2-txt.htm>.

Because these solutions are iffy at best, your cousin must try and keep the dogs if at all possible. Can you or a family member take in one or more of the dogs? Can you help your cousin find affordable housing that also takes pets?

Helping a family member through this sort of crisis isn't easy, and you're a champ for stepping up. Don't give up on finding either a good home for the dogs or a place where your cousin can keep them.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to [pawscorner@hotmail.com](mailto:pawscorner@hotmail.com).

(c) 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Take time for tea

When you think of "tea time," the image of sipping a relaxing cup of tea with friends may come to mind, but when those words bounce off the walls in my house, the teapot isn't whistling. Instead, my husband and sons are racing out the door to make their "tee time" at the golf course.

When my Irish-born friend Margaret moved to the States more than 10 years ago, she couldn't help but notice our always-on-the-go, hectic and harried lifestyle. She was determined to show Americans that it is possible to pause and enjoy friendship like the Irish tend to do. So she not only makes a daily event of tea time for herself, but she also shares the tradition with her children and friends.

With St. Patrick's Day coming up on the 17th, make a family resolution to slow down and enjoy simple moments together, like tea time. As Margaret observes, "By the time everyone sips some tea, slathers scones with jam and butter, sips and then pours more tea, can you imagine the wonderful, one-on-one discussions a person can have with children, family and friends?"

Here are some ideas to get started: Kids can help by setting the "tea tray," a necessary component for tea time. You'll need a sugar bowl, pitcher for milk and a small plate with sliced lemons. Cover the coffee table or dining-room table with a white lace cloth. (She collects hers at tag sales.) Then place cups, saucers, spoons and napkins around the table. Each person can be given a dessert plate and butter knife used to cut scones or cake into pieces or for spreading butter and cream.

When it's time to sit down, let the children be responsible for passing the milk, sugar, cake or scones.

How to brew a proper pot of tea:

1. Boil a kettle of water.
2. Pour 1 inch of hot water into a china



by Donna Erickson

or silver teapot. Swirl to warm, and then pour it out.

3. Into the pot, measure 1 teaspoon of tea per person and 1 extra teaspoon for the pot.

4. Add rapidly boiling water to the pot and steep for five minutes.

5. Strain tea into teacups.

6. Dispose of used tea leaves in compost pile, or scatter them around your growing roses.

Serve with whole milk if you wish. It gives tea a nice color and rounds out the flavor. Children tend to prefer it that way.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit [www.donnasday.com](http://www.donnasday.com) to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

(c) 2009 Donna Erickson

Distributed by King Features Synd.



## Life &amp; Style

# Anna Nicole Smith's boyfriend, doctors charged

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Anna Nicole Smith's boyfriend Howard K. Stern and two doctors were charged Thursday with giving thousands of prescription drugs to the former Playboy playmate in the years leading up to her 2007 fatal overdose.

Stern and doctors Sandeep Kapoor and Khristine Eroshevich were each charged with three felony counts of conspiracy. Prosecutors said the doctors gave the drugs—including opiates and benzodiazepines—to Stern, who then gave them to Smith over three years.

"These individuals repeatedly and excessively furnished thousands of prescription pills to Anna Nicole Smith, of-

ten for no legitimate medical purpose," California Attorney General Edmund G. Brown said in a statement.

A spokesman for Brown told The Associated Press that two of the three had been arrested but would not specify which ones.

The medical examiner's office has said Eroshevich, a Los Angeles psychiatrist and friend of the starlet's, authorized all the prescription medications found in the Hollywood, Fla., hotel room where the 39-year-old Smith was found unresponsive shortly before her death in February 2007. Eroshevich had traveled with Smith to Florida.

Brown said Eroshevich and

Kapoor "violated their ethical obligations as physicians, while Mr. Stern funneled highly addictive drugs to Ms. Smith."

The three defendants also were charged with a combined eight other felonies, including obtaining fraudulent prescriptions and unlawfully prescribing a controlled substance between June 2004 and January 2007.

Messages left with the defendants' attorneys seeking comment were not immediately.

Several agencies participated in the investigation, including the attorney general's office, the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, the state Medical Board and the state Department of Insurance.



In this Oct. 2, 2000 file photo, Anna Nicole Smith, right, smiles as she walks to the courthouse with her attorney Howard K. Stern in Houston.

## Every sip you take: Singer Sting is selling wine

ROME (AP)—After singing of "Fields of Gold," British rock star Sting is tending fields of grapes as he prepares to market red wine made at his country estate in Tuscany.

Some 30,000 bottles of wine produced on the property will go on sale in September, mainly in Britain and the United States, Paolo Rossi, the estate's manager, said Thursday.

In 1997 the former Police frontman purchased a 16th-century villa, called Il Palagio,

in Figline Valdarno, a small village some 19 miles (30 kilometers) south of Florence.

Over the years he has turned the surrounding 860 acres (350 hectares) into an organic farm that also produces honey, olive oil, fruit, vegetables and Tuscan salami.

"When I came here to Figline I wanted first of all to feed my family," Sting said on Tuesday during an event at the village where the 57-year-old star spoke of the time he spends at Il Palagio.

"I also wanted to use agriculture with practices that would nourish the land and not deplete the land and so we went to traditional methods with farming, we got rid of pesticides, we shunned monoculture, and it works, the farm is also a garden," he said in the remarks broadcast by local television Rtv38.

Rossi did not reveal the name of the upcoming wine. He said it will be a 2007 vintage based on the Sangiovese grape, with a touch of Cabernet and Merlot.

## Contempt conviction of 'Peanuts' actress is voided

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—A judge threw out a contempt-of-court conviction and ordered a new trial for a woman who was the voice of Lucy in several "Peanuts" TV specials and is accused of harassing UCLA faculty members who conduct research on animals, her lawyer said Thursday.

Pamelyn Ferdin had faced up to five days in jail and a \$1,000 fine until Wednesday, when Superior Court Judge John Segal voided her 2008 conviction based on what a UCLA attorney called a technicality.

Segal scheduled a new trial for April 28, said Ferdin's attorney George Seide.

Ferdin, 50, was convicted of violating a court injunction that barred harassment of faculty at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Last June, Ferdin demonstrated outside the home of a UCLA primate researcher and handed out fliers that included home addresses, phone numbers and photographs of some researchers, Seide said. A previous injunction against other animal rights activists barred such activity. A judge found that Ferdin was acting "in concert" with them, even though she wasn't named in the injunction, Seide said.



In this Feb. 22, 2006 file photo, animal activist Pamelyn Ferdin poses outside federal court in Trenton, N.J.

## Defense rests in Phil Spector murder retrial

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Phil Spector's defense attorney rested his case Thursday in the music producer's murder retrial involving the shooting death of actress Lana Clarkson.

Superior Court Judge Larry Paul Fidler advised Spector of his right to testify, but he chose not to take the stand in his own defense.

Attorney Doron Weinberg concluded with testimony from forensic psychologist Elizabeth Loftus, an expert in memory and witness testimony. Her opinions were presented to cast doubt on the prosecution's star witness,



In this Jan. 26, 2009 file photo, music producer Phil Spector listens during a hearing in Los Angeles County Superior Court in downtown Los Angeles.

a chauffeur who said he heard Spector say he thought he had killed somebody.

Spector, the eccentric music legend renowned for his "Wall of Sound" recording technique, is charged with second-degree murder in the death of Clarkson, who became a 1980s cult figure through her starring role in the film "Barbarian Queen."

She died of a gunshot fired into her mouth while seated in the foyer of Spector's home in 2003. The defense has contended Clarkson was suicidal and killed herself. The prosecution maintains that Spector killed her.

## HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000



**\$5.25** Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM  
**\$5.25** All Day Admission For Seniors  
**\$4.25** All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)  
**\$5.25** Student Admission with Valid I.D.  
**\$5.25** Military with Valid I.D.

**TUESDAY BARGAIN \$5.25** ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT [www.gohollywood.com](http://www.gohollywood.com)



For Friday, March 13 through Tuesday, March 17 only!  
 THEATER CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★



### Race To Witch Mountain

Friday 4:15 7:30 9:40  
 Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:30 9:40  
 Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:30  
 Mon and Tues 4:15 7:30

**Dwayne Johnson, Ciarán Hinds**

Action, Adventure • Rated PG

### Synopsis

For years, stories have circulated about a secret place in the middle of the Nevada desert, known for unexplained phenomena and strange sightings. It is called Witch Mountain, and when a Las Vegas cab driver finds two teens with supernatural powers in his cab, he suddenly finds himself in the middle of an adventure he can't explain.



### The Last House On The Left

Friday 4:30 7:15 9:55  
 Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:15 9:55  
 Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:15  
 Mon and Tues 4:30 7:15

**Garret Dillahunt, Rhys Corio**

Horror • Rated R

### Synopsis

The night she arrives at the remote Collingwood lakehouse, Mari and her friend are kidnapped by a prison escapee and his crew. Terrified and left for dead, Mari's only hope is to make it back to parents John and Emma. Unfortunately, her attackers unknowingly seek shelter at the one place she could be safe. And when her family learns the horrifying story, they will make three strangers curse the day they came to the last house on the left.



### Watchmen

Friday 4:00 7:05 10:15  
 Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:05 10:15  
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:05  
 Mon and Tues 4:00 7:05

**Malin Akerman, Billy Crudup**

Action, Adventure • Rated R

### Synopsis

In the 1950s, a seemingly ordinary guy puts on a mask and a superhero costume and starts to fight crime. He is joined by a bunch of others who take up the same pursuit, until a law is passed that forces them to hang up their capes. When a few of the former crimefighters are mysteriously murdered, the remaining members set out to solve the crimes.



### Love Me Again

Friday 4:25 7:20 9:50  
 Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:50  
 Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20  
 Mon and Tues 4:25 7:20

**Piolo Pascual, Angel Locsin**

Love, Romance, Drama • Rated PG



### Slumdog Millionaire

Friday 4:20 7:00 9:45  
 Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:00 9:45  
 Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:00  
 Mon and Tues 4:20 7:00

**Dev Patel, Anil Kapoor**

Comedy, Drama • Rated R



### Pink Panther 2

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:30  
 Saturday 1:15 4:10 7:10 9:30  
 Sunday 1:15 4:10 7:10  
 Mon and Tues 4:10 7:10

**Steve Martin, Andy Garcia**

Comedy, Mystery • Rated PG



### The Uninvited

Friday 4:05 7:25 9:35  
 Saturday 1:20 4:05 7:25 9:35  
 Sunday 1:20 4:05 7:25  
 Mon and Tues 4:05 7:25

**Elizabeth Banks, David Strathairn**

Horror, Remake • Rated PG 13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

[www.gohollywood.com](http://www.gohollywood.com)



# Roberto Bolano's '2666' wins book critics prize

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Stories and scholarship from around the world were honored by book critics Thursday night, including works about the ancient and modern Middle East and a novel set in Mexico, the late Roberto Bolano's "2666."

The National Book Critics Circle awarded the fiction prize to Bolano, the Chilean author who died in 2003; the award for general nonfiction to "The Forever War," Dexter Filkins' reporting on the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan; and the autobiography prize to Ariel Sabar's "My Father's Par-

adise," which traces the author's Jewish roots in Kurdish Iraq.

Sabar, noting that he was an immigrant son's in 1980s Los Angeles, remembered growing up with a father who "looked funny," "talked funny" and "couldn't get his clothes to match." But he became deeply curious about his family's history and was struck by Iraq's long history of people of different faiths "who pretty much got along."

Nobel laureate V.S. Naipaul, a native of Trinidad who now lives in England, was the subject of the biography winner, Patrick

French's "The World Is What It Is." Seth Lerer's "Children's Literature," which traces young people's stories as far back as ancient Greece and Aesop's fables, was cited for criticism.

Lerer, noting his subject matter, thought it fitting to bring up an old cliché and "thank all the little people."

For the first time in the awards' 35-year history, two winners were named for one category: August Kleinzahler's "Sleeping It Off in Rapid City" and Juan Felipe Herrera's "Half the World in Light: New and Selected Po-

ems" shared the poetry prize.

The awards carry a great deal of prestige but no cash, fitting for a time when reviewers have struggled to hold on to their jobs and many members of the critics circle's board are freelancers.

An honorary citation was given to one of the more fortunate critics, The Washington Post's Ron Charles, who joked that "I don't know if I'm nervous or if this is just survivor's guilt."

An award for lifetime achievement was given to the American center of PEN, the international writers association.

## Reeves: Jay Leno may consider 2nd show in Detroit

**DETROIT (AP)**—Motown star turned councilwoman Martha Reeves may get her wish yet—a free performance by Jay Leno in Detroit.

But that likely will be some time after a planned April 7 show at the Palace of Auburn Hills about 20 miles north of the city.

Reeves said Thursday that Leno indicated to her earlier in the day that he would consider a benefit in Detroit later in the year, The Detroit News and Detroit Free Press reported.

Reeves had appeared outraged after Leno announced on Monday's "Tonight" show that he would give a free show at the Palace as part of his "comedy stimulus plan" for the unemployed in the Detroit area.

"He and I are longtime friends," The News quoted Reeves as saying. "I called him, and he said Detroit is his favorite place to visit."

Reeves was lead singer of Motown's Martha and the Vandellas during the 1960s. The group scored a number of hits, including "Dancing in the Streets."

Earlier this week, Leno told radio station WJR that he got Reeves' autograph when he was a student at Emerson College in Boston.

"I still have it. It's in my scrapbook," Leno said.

Reeves had asked Leno to do free show April 6 at Joe Louis Arena in downtown Detroit for out-of-work city residents, she said.

Leno has said the April 7 performance was for the entire area that has been hard hit by high unemployment: "It just kinda makes me laugh. It's that old no good deed goes unpunished."



Leno

## George Clooney's Dr. Ross returns to 'ER'



**NEW YORK (AP)**—George Clooney has led a parade of old favorites back to "ER" as the medical drama nears the end of its 15-year run.

Clooney, whose character Dr. Doug Ross left the show in 1999, returned in Thursday's episode. The doctor, now in Seattle, works with wife Carol Hathaway (Julianne Margulies) to persuade a grandmother played by Susan Sarandon to donate the organs of her grandson.

Eriq La Salle and Noah Wyle, two other original cast members, also appeared in Thursday's episode.

The finale of the NBC drama is scheduled for April 2. Once television's most popular show, the series now draws about one-fourth the audience each week that it had during its peak.

In this Feb. 24, 2008 picture, George Clooney arrives for the 80th Academy Awards in Los Angeles.

AP

### ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

#### Late Night' nails a decisive win its first week

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Jimmy Fallon enjoyed a healthy win in the ratings his first week on the air. NBC's "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon" attracted an average 2.4 million viewers the week of March 2, against CBS' "Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson," which averaged 1.9 million viewers, according to final Nielsen figures released Thursday. In their opening night clash, Fallon scored 2.9 million viewers against Ferguson's 1.9 million. On that March 2 debut, Fallon also beat ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live" during their overlapping half-hour by 100,000 viewers. "Jimmy Kimmel Live" begins 30 minutes earlier. Fallon has taken over "Late Night" from longtime host Conan O'Brien.

#### Spacey to get arts award named for late senator

**PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)**—Oscar-winning actor Kevin Spacey is getting another honor. Spacey will receive the National Pell Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Arts at a gala event in June. The award is named for Claiborne Pell, a for-

mer Rhode Island senator who died Jan. 1. The Trinity Repertory Company said Thursday that it had selected Spacey for the award because of his dedication to live theater and film as well as his humanitarian work. Pell championed the arts and education during his 36 years in the Senate. Former recipients of the award include playwright Arthur Miller, novelist Toni Morrison and actor-director Robert Redford.

#### Appiah to be next president of writers group

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A Princeton University professor with a wide range of expertise will be the next president of the American center of PEN, the writers organization. Kwame Anthony Appiah, a professor of philosophy at Princeton who has written three novels and written and edited numerous nonfiction books, is expected to be elected next week to a 1-year term. PEN's executive vice president, Laurence J. Kirshbaum, said Thursday night that Appiah would succeed author Francine Prose, who had served two 1-year terms. Kirshbaum's comments were made while accepting an honorary prize on behalf of PEN from the National Book Critics

Circle. Appiah, 54, was born in London and lived for many years in Ghana. A world traveler immersed in everything from ethics to racial identity, he has written often about Africans and African-Americans and has set his fiction in England and Italy.

#### Baltimore Opera pursuing chapter 7, dissolution

**BALTIMORE (AP)**—The Baltimore Opera Company's board of trustees has voted to seek Chapter 7 liquidation and sell off the 58-year-old company's assets. General Manager M. Kevin Wixted says the company didn't have enough money to do more than struggle month to month. He said the company would never get ahead and could never raise enough money to have one season of opera. The board took the vote on Thursday. Now the company is going to sell its costumes, equipment, warehouse and scenery before using the proceeds to pay creditors. Board Chairman Allan Jensen says the economy made it impossible to make significant progress in keeping the opera company operating. Three months ago, the opera canceled its 2008-2009 season and filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

## Despondent wife is all alone in marriage to silent husband

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I am so lonely. My husband refuses to communicate with me or do anything with me. The only outlet I have is work and school. I would like to end this misery, but I don't know where to begin. We have been married for 17 years. I have never been unfaithful to him, although I have thought about it—not for the physical aspect, but for the communication.

DESPERATE FOR SOMEONE TO TALK TO



Dear Abby

**DEAR DESPERATE:** Has your marriage always been this way? When did this "great silence" begin? Most important, why have you tolerated an emotional "starvation diet" for so long?

If you think your marriage is worth saving, offer your husband the chance to repair it through marriage counseling—but be prepared for it to take some time, because old habits are hard to break. If not, then accept the fact that you have suffered enough, and formalize the reality that you haven't really been married in a very long time.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I am shy. I am by no means painfully shy, but I tend to be more of an observer when I first meet people. Once I'm comfortable I can open up and be myself. Sometimes it's only minutes, but other times I need to meet someone more than once. Many of my friends have told me their first impression of me was that I was extremely snotty. This is wrong. I'm a very kind person.

I have accepted this personality trait, but it may be interfering with my finding a job. I was recently laid off, and I'm applying for and interviewing for a new one. However, after numerous interviews I have not been invited back for a second one.

I work in public relations, where personality can be a key in hiring. I believe my shyness is hindering me from "wowing" potential employers. How can I overcome it and give a better first interview?

WANTS TO BE HIRED IN WISCONSIN

**DEAR WANTS TO BE HIRED:** Public relations is a form of sales, and in sales first impressions are essential. An interview is not a social situation, where you can look someone over and decide whether or not to open up. This is business, and if you're going to get hired you are going to have to sell yourself. So start working on your sales pitch. Tell potential employers what makes you the right person for the job.

Your friends and family can help you by role-playing practice interviews. Ask them to honestly critique you. If you have been working with a placement agency, discuss this with the person who has been sending you on these interviews. His or her input could also be helpful.

If this doesn't make your job search more successful, then perhaps it's time to extend your search into other fields besides public relations.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** Is there a polite response to the question, "How are you?" in situations when your life is horrible, but you would rather not talk about it (i.e., divorce)?

DEVASTATED IN HIGHLAND, UTAH

**DEAR DEVASTATED:** If you would really prefer not to talk about "it," the response you should give is, "Fine, thanks—and how are you?" This will deflect attention from yourself and onto the other person.

When you are ready to deal with follow-up questions, all you have to say is, "How am I? I've had better days!" And nine times out of 10 the person will pounce on the opening.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

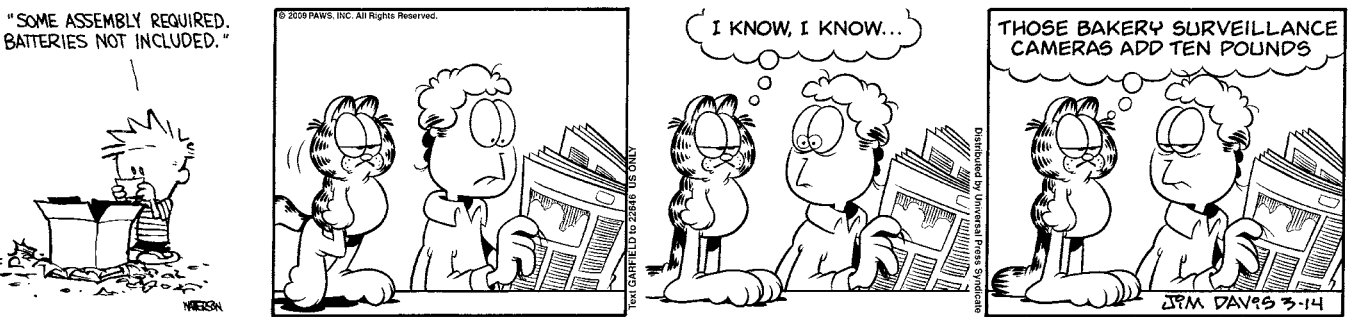


Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



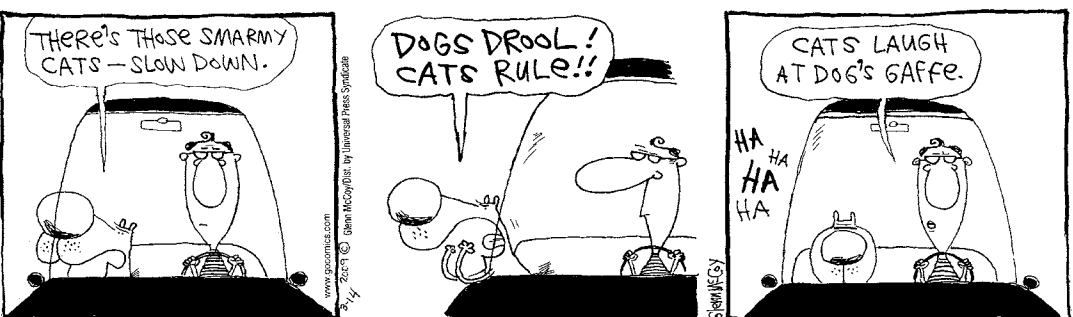
Garfield®



Adam@home



The Duplex



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 "Gotta Have It" (West Indies group) 36 — Islands (West Indies group) 56 ATF agents

5 Ties up the phone 37 Saute 22 Lottery winner, maybe

9 Weep loudly 38 Office-holders 24 Galileo, by birth

12 Tropical tree 39 A little lower? 25 "Most Wanted" org.

13 Vicinity 42 Sister 26 Edge

14 Actress Gardner 44 Poi base 27 Scepter topper

15 Goya's "Duchess of —" 48 Discoverer's cry 29 Scenery chewer

16 Flaccid 50 PC symbol 30 Greek vowel

17 Massage 51 Tri-umphed 31 Upper House abbr.

18 "Hud" Oscar winner 52 Mosque bigwig 35 Hardly a sluggard

19 Big bother 53 Herr's mate 36 Motion pictures

20 Rickey 54 Caustic solution 39 Part of Batman's costume

21 Bagel topper 55 Pop choice 40 "Hi, sailor!"

23 "Simpsons" store-keeper 10 Egg 41 Unaccompanied

25 Extremely reserved 43 Orsk's river

28 Cubby-holes 45 Farm fraction

32 Special delivery? 46 Fork option

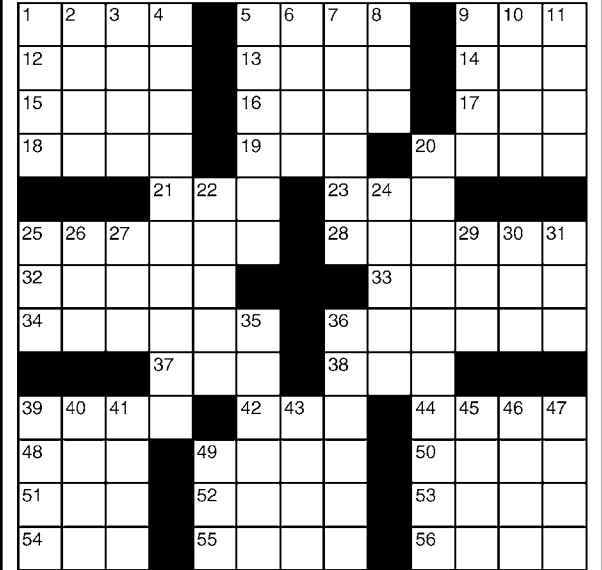
33 Make like Michelle Kwan 47 Responsibility

34 Permeated 49 Snapshot

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

J	O	B	M	A	L	E	R	S	V	P
A	I	L	A	D	A	M	H	O	E	R
B	L	U	E	J	A	Y	S	U	R	I
F	E	W	O	K	S	T	R	A	M	
F	I	B	E	R	E	T	C	H		
O	D	O	R	S	C	R	A	M	B	L
N	E	O	S	O	L	O	N	L	E	E
T	A	K	E	A	W	A	Y	D	U	A
T	I	N	T	B	E	E	F	Y		
A	F	O	U	L	G	L	E	N		
L	A	I	D	B	L	U	E	M	O	O
F	I	N	E	L	O	R	E	T	A	B
A	R	K	S	Y	O	U	D	E	T	C

**Yesterday's answer 3-14**



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Taylor Hanson, 26; Billy Crystal, 61; Michael Caine, 76; Quincy Jones, 76

**Happy Birthday:** Both personal and professional relationships can make or break you mentally, financially and emotionally this year. Don't give in to demands or offer ultimatums if you want to succeed. It's what you accomplish through your own effort and using your skills that will get you what you want in the end. Your numbers are 9, 14, 17, 22, 36, 41, 47

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Do your homework before giving to a cause or someone asking for donations or help. Choose wisely where your cash is going to go. If someone is trying to push you, back away. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You'll be inclined to spread yourself too thin. Don't neglect the people who mean the most to you. Overdoing, overspending and over-reacting will all lead to trouble at home and in your personal life. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Don't overlook someone's ability to manipulate you. Set your plans in motion and stick to them, regardless of the changes someone else makes. You owe it to you and your closest companions to do what's best for everyone. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You can do far more than you think if you use your charm and skills to impress others. Once everyone sees what you have to offer, you will have plenty of leeway. Utilize whatever resources you have and keep things simple. \*\*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Don't give in to bullying or emotional blackmail. You can meet new people and enjoy new activities if you get out and try new things. Be the adventurer instead of giving in to pressures by someone who hasn't got all that much to offer. \*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You may be a master when it comes to getting things done and doing them well but don't let compliments lead you to make unwise promises. Don't be afraid to delegate. \*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You'll have plenty of options but, if you try to take on too much or do it all, you will lose out emotionally or financially. Don't fall short of your own personal goals. A love relationship can take an interesting turn. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Don't let anyone get you down with negativity or uncalled for comments. Recognize your own ability and find a creative twist that will make what you are trying to do unique and inviting. Don't give up when you are so close to making your dreams come true. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Not everyone is as worthy as you think. A new way of doing something you've mastered will give it a fresh appeal. A disruption of your plans is likely. Don't skip a beat or alter what you are doing. \*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You cannot give in to someone else's needs or extravagance. An unusual situation will help you make up your mind about a career

EUGENIA LAST  
THE LAST WORD  
IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



move you have been pondering. Change is upon you and is certainly long overdue. \*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Good things are heading your way. A conversation will lead to a change of plans—go along with it and you will benefit in the end. Making new friends will open your eyes to new activities and ventures. \*\*

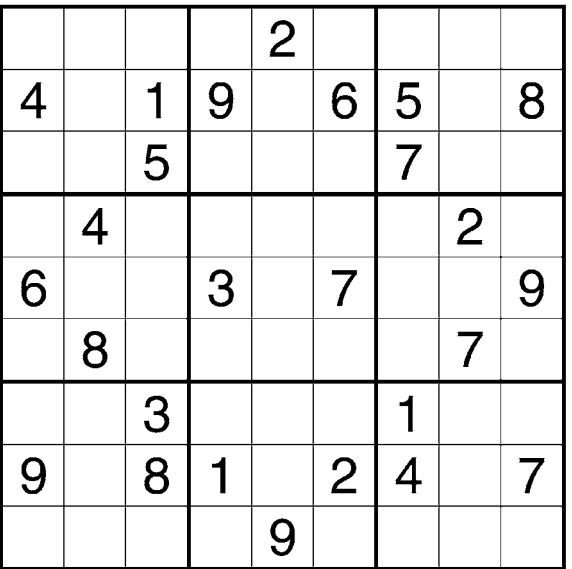
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** This is a great time to negotiate a deal, to stand up for your rights or to get involved in a moneymaking venture. Be the one to pull things together or push for what you want. Talks lead to actions and actions will be rewarded with success. \*\*\*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are aggressive, unpredictable, strong, courageous and charismatic. You are a pioneer and an adventurer and you see things through to the end.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

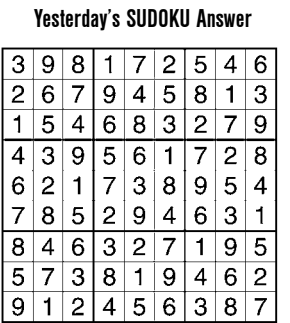
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 3/14

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.



Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 3/14

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**COPACABANA'S GUEST LIST** Solution: 7 letters



©2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 3/14  
Beach, Bennett, Bolivia, Bruce, Costello, Dance, Danny, Dante, Darin, Davis, Dean, Diana, Dorsey, Durante, Famous, Frankie, Guajira, Jack, Jerry, Jimmy, Jules, Laine, Leme, Lena, Lola, Marvin, Monte, Nat King, New York, Orlando, Princesa, Proser, Reese, Rick, Rio De Janeiro, Robinson, Sacopenapa, Sammy, Smokey, Song, Stars, Temptations, Tony, Wayne, Wilson  
**Yesterday's Answer: Detective**  
We listened to your request: TREASURY #6 is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 29 x 29 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for \$10.95 each plus \$3.25 p&h (\$14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, \$1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Press Syndicate, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64105 or call toll-free 1-800-942-6460. Order online at [upuzzles.com](http://upuzzles.com).







# CLASSIFIED ADS



## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

#### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:  
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

#### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in this section

WHATZIT Solution:  
Wait on hand and foot

REVOLVING RESTAURANT  
360  
GREAT VIEWS. INCREDIBLE FOOD

**Revolving Restaurant 360 is in need of:**  
  
1 Wait Staff – Japanese language speaking is helpful. Experience with bartending and mixing drinks is an advantage.  
  
For local or IR hiring only. Please call 234-1610. Bring your resume with picture at the 3rd floor of Marianas Business Plaza from 9 am to 4 pm, Monday to Friday.

### AUTOMOTIVE

For Sale: 2005 Ford Van, Passenger 15, for only \$13,500.00. Contact person: Mr. Park. Tel. # 234-5700-01

### FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Spacious Executive House for rent, Ahgaga Rd. Papago, Safe quiet area, 4000sq ft, 5BR, 3 1/2 BTH, 3 stories, kitchen/living rm, laundry room, 2 covered balconies, panoramic ocean view, full concrete, landscaped, yard maint. included, 3000 gal. water trnk, negotiable, see to appreciate, on site landlord. Call 483-1933 or 256-0132

**Computer Repair**  
Only \$25 Minor Problem  
WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS  
233-5641  
Open 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

Subscribe to the CNMI's  
First Daily Newspaper

235-NEWS



# Bryant scores 23 as Lakers clinch playoff berth



**SAN ANTONIO** (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers are the West's first team in the playoffs. Kobe Bryant made sure of it.

Bryant scored the last of his 23 points on a 3-pointer with 1:46 left, and the Lakers secured a postseason spot with a 102-95 victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Thursday night.

The Spurs have been the West's No. 2 team most of the season, and Los Angeles validated that pecking order. The Lakers also wrapped up the Pacific Division in the final rematch this season of the 2008 Western Conference finals.

Tony Parker and Michael Finley led San Antonio with 25 points apiece. Drew Gooden made his Spurs debut after being signed a week ago, but played just 3 1/4 minutes, scoring two points and grabbing four rebounds.

Lamar Odom had 12 points and 10 rebounds for Los Angeles in his return from a one-game suspension for leaving the bench during an altercation in Monday's loss to Portland.

One night after ending Houston's 12-game home winning streak, the Lakers wrapped up their road swing by bringing San Antonio's three-game winning string to a halt.

The loss cut San Antonio's lead over the Rockets in the Southwest Division to two games, with the Spurs heading to Houston on Saturday. The Rockets play at Charlotte on Friday.

Tim Duncan had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Spurs.

Trevor Ariza, who joined the Lakers' starting lineup this week, scored 10 points. Derek Fisher also added 10.

If it was a West playoff preview, it didn't feel that way until the fourth quarter. Los Angeles led by as much as 18 in the first quarter, but San Antonio chipped away, cutting the lead to 95-93 on a 3-pointer from Parker with 2:18 left.

Then Bryant, with rookie George Hill closely guarding him, drained a 3-pointer that quashed any hopes of a Spurs comeback. As Bryant left the court, several dozen fans chanted "M-V-P! M-V-P!" in what is usually hostile territory for the Lakers.

The close finish belied what looked like a Lakers blowout from the start.

Forcing the usually careful Spurs into several first-half turnovers and the Lakers rolled to a



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (24) and forward Pau Gasol (16), of Spain, bump heads during the final moments of an NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs in San Antonio, Thursday.

35-17 lead—the most points allowed by the Spurs in the first quarter all season.

Bryant had 14 at the half against defenders ranging from 37-year-old Bruce Bowen to the rookie Hill. Finley kept the Spurs as close as he could, hitting a trio of 3-pointers and scoring 17 in the first half.

San Antonio trailed 78-70 to start the fourth period, but the Lakers couldn't put the Spurs away. Finley's 3-pointer with 10:30 left cut the lead to 81-78, bringing the sold-out crowd to its feet.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said before the game he didn't know if Gooden would play, then inserted his new big man for a brief spell in the second half. It was just the third appearance since Jan. 19 for Gooden, who has been hobbled by a groin injury since starting the season in Chicago and then being traded to Sacramento last month.

## Cavaliers 119, Suns 111

At Phoenix, LeBron James got his third consecutive triple-double and a long-sought first win in Phoenix.

James had 34 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds, and the Cleveland Cavaliers won a road game against the Suns for the first time in a decade, 119-111 on Thursday night.

US Airways Center was the only building in the NBA where James hadn't won. He was 0-5 here, not counting this year's All-Star game loss, coming into Thursday night's contest.

Mo Williams, who scored a career-high 44 the first time the teams met this season, added 30 for Cleveland, including 6-of-10 3s. Matt Barnes scored 21 and Steve Nash 20 as the Suns extended their losing streak to six games, their longest in six seasons.

James got the triple-double with a rebound with 2.8 seconds to play.

Sasha Pavlovic scored 11 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter, including three 3-pointers. Cleveland made a season-best 17 3s in 33 attempts to win for the eighth time in nine games and improve to 13-2 since Jan. 30.

The Cavaliers, 2-0 on a three-game western swing, won their franchise-record 23rd road

game, surpassing the 22 they had in 1991-92. Phoenix fell six games behind Dallas for the final playoff berth in the West.

Cleveland took control of the intense contest with a late 10-2 run after Grant Hill's three-point play cut the Cavs' lead to 101-100 with 7:04 remaining.

Williams hit a running 7-footer and a 3-pointer and James sank a 20-footer in the surge. James capped it with two free throws that made it 111-102 with 3:45 left. Nash's 3-pointer cut it to 113-109 with 2:11 remaining, but Williams sank another 3, James added two free throws, and the Suns were finished.

Phoenix was down 97-95 and had the ball for what looked to be a breakaway layup, but Jason Richardson's 360-degree spin dunk attempt was blocked by James. Pavlovic's third 3-pointer of the quarter made it 100-95 with 8:33 left. Richardson complained vehemently he was fouled on the play and drew a technical. Williams' subsequent free throw made it 101-95 with 8:32 to go. Television replays clearly showed James hit Richardson's wrist on the play.

Richardson, who scored only two points in the first half, had the first eight in a 10-0 run that put Phoenix ahead 74-66 on Shaquille O'Neal's inside basket with 8:34 left in the third quarter. But Wally Szczerbiak sank a pair of 3s in an 8-0 Cleveland surge that cut it to 84-83 with 2:37 to go in the period. Moments later,

## Pacers could move if financial losses continue

**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—Indiana Pacers co-owner Herb Simon passionately says he doesn't want to see the city without his franchise.

His wishes and the bottom line appear to be at odds.

Among the key issues for the struggling franchise is its operation of Conseco Fieldhouse. The building where the team plays its home games belongs to the Indianapolis Capital Improvement Board, and the Pacers have been paying its \$15 million operating cost. Pat Early, the board's vice president, said the Pacers have made it clear that they no longer can pay that amount, in part because they could lose \$30 million this season.

Early said the Pacers haven't threatened to leave, but the team would be forced to make some "very difficult decisions" if it remains saddled with the operating cost of the facility or if attendance continues to lag near the bottom of the league.

"It's possible they could move the team," Early said. "It's possible they could sell the team. It is also possible they could shut the team down. What's not possible is the Pacers losing the kind of money they're losing this year indefinitely."

Simon said he doesn't want to move the team, though he acknowledges that the financial losses have accelerated the past three years.

"I have no thought of leaving Indiana," he said. "Only a thought of preserving the Pacers and keeping them in Indiana. That's the only issue right here."

Simon, who has owned the team with his brother, Mel, since 1983, said he doesn't need help with the Pacers.

"We can handle the team," he said. "It's the operation of the facility that's causing us

the problem. We're not asking anyone to pay for us. It's just the operating of the facility."

The Pacers and the Capital Improvement Board struck their current deal 10 years ago, and Early said they are in the early stages of renegotiating. He said the board can't pay the operating cost because it already faces a \$43 million shortfall, and he's unsure who would.

"That's the big question," he said. "Really, we do not have the funding sources to allow us to be able to do this. We've contacted the state, the Legislature ... we're trying to figure out, are there solutions?"

At the heart of Simon's desire to rework the deal is the fact that he's 74 years old and wants to pass the team along to his heirs at some point.

"The whole reason to do this is to put the team in the financial spot where it can stay here forever," he said. "I'm getting on. I can't be here forever. I can't pass on a structure that doesn't make sense to other people."

Conseco Fieldhouse hosts many other events such as circuses and concerts, and Early said the city would suffer if no one picks up the operating cost, rendering the facility unusable.

"All the arts and entertainment and all that stuff is part of the overall environment we've been able to develop the past 40 years," Early said. "You start taking pieces of the puzzle out, and I don't know at what point it starts falling apart."

The Pacers have lost money nine of the past 10 years, were last in the league in attendance last season, and are only slightly better this season. Pacers fans will have a great deal of say in whether the team stays.

"Maybe the cost of keeping an NBA franchise in Indianapolis is more than the people of the city are willing to incur," Early said.

er, James crashed to the floor after running into Hill on a layup drive. He held his left knee but got to his feet, flexed the knee a few times, and stayed in the game.

Phoenix led 93-89 entering the fourth quarter on Hill's lob pass from out of bounds to Barnes for a layup with 1.5 seconds left in the third.

## Jones: Cowboys won't rush to draft WR



**LITTLE ROCK, Ark.** (AP)—Cowboys owner Jerry Jones says drafting a wide receiver isn't a priority this year, even after the departure of Terrell Owens.

"One of the reasons that I made the decision on Terrell Owens was because I thought so much of our young receivers. Not only Roy Williams ... but our other young receivers—Miles Austin, Sam Hurd, those are guys that will now

have a chance," Jones said Thursday night. "It would really have to be a real opportunity for us to go there."

"The good news with our team right now is we can go about any direction we want to in the draft and pick the best player."

Owens was released last week and later signed with the Buffalo Bills.

Jones, a former Arkansas Razorbacks player, was in Little Rock to be honored by Easter Seals as its 2009 Arkansan of the Year. He was accom-

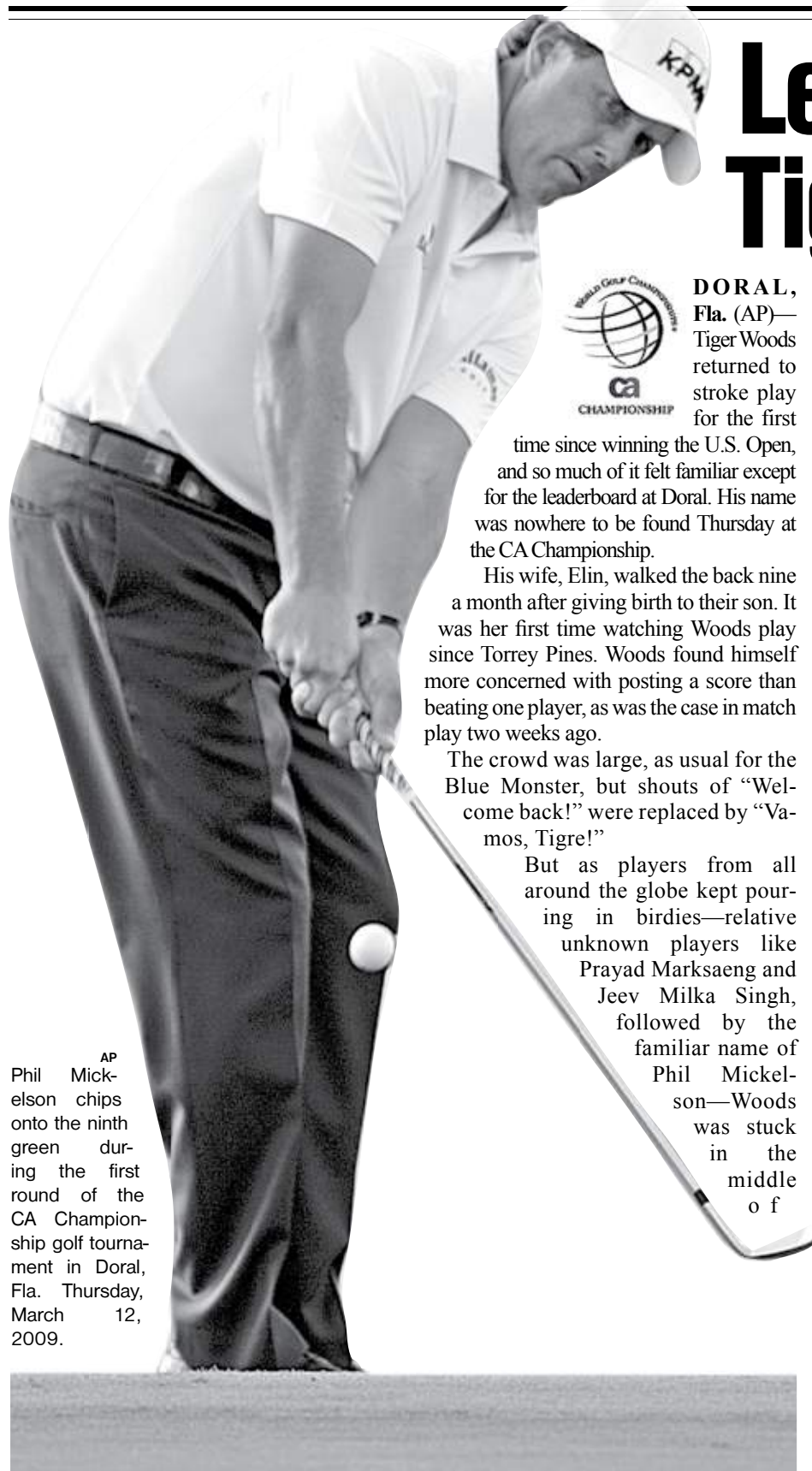
panied by three Cowboys: quarterback Tony Romo, tight end Jason Witten and running back Felix Jones.

There were reports of a rift last season between Romo, Witten and Owens. Reporters were not permitted to talk to Romo or Witten on Thursday night.

Jerry Jones did speak briefly to reporters about next season.

"We've got a great core base put together. We've made some changes in the offseason. We think that's going to really be very helpful—both sides of the ball and on special teams," he said. "We've got a chance to get as many as nine players in the draft, and we'll need about 80 percent of those to be players."





AP  
Phil Mickelson chips onto the ninth green during the first round of the CA Championship golf tournament in Doral, Fla. Thursday, March 12, 2009.

# Lefty takes share of lead, Tiger sputters at Doral

**DORAL, Fla. (AP)—**Tiger Woods returned to stroke play for the first

time since winning the U.S. Open, and so much of it felt familiar except for the leaderboard at Doral. His name was nowhere to be found Thursday at the CA Championship.

His wife, Elin, walked the back nine a month after giving birth to their son. It was her first time watching Woods play since Torrey Pines. Woods found himself more concerned with posting a score than beating one player, as was the case in match play two weeks ago.

The crowd was large, as usual for the Blue Monster, but shouts of "Welcome back!" were replaced by "Vamos, Tigre!"

But as players from all around the globe kept pouring in birdies—relative unknown players like Prayad Marksang and Jeev Milka Singh, followed by the familiar name of Phil Mickelson—Woods was stuck in the middle of

the pack of an 80-man field.

Mickelson chipped in three times, twice while finishing with three straight birdies, on his way to a 7-under 65 that gave him a four-way share of the lead with Retief Goosen, Marksang and Singh.

Woods made only three birdies—two of them on par 5s—and had to settle for a 71 that put him in a tie for 40th. "I need to be a touch sharper," said Woods, who has never finished out of the top 10 at Doral.

Mickelson has rarely been this excited. He can't recall hitting the ball this long or having a short game this superb. Along with taking only eight putts on the back nine, he pounded tee shot so far that he had wedge left for his second shot on the par-5 first hole.

"It was just nice to see the ball go in the hole," Mickelson said.

Woods didn't see much of that, twisting his body and buckling his knees when one putt after another failed to drop. It was his highest opening-round score in seven starts on the Blue Monster.

"It was not like I was playing poorly and shot 71," Woods said. "I played well and just didn't make any putts."

The problem for him was just about everyone else did.

Singh ran off five birdies in a six-hole stretch around the turn and was the first player to post a 65 on a balmy, breezy afternoon. Goosen, switching back to a conventional putter, ran off eight birdies in his round of 65. And the real surprise was Marksang, of Thailand, who birdied eight of his first 12 holes to join the leaders.

The group one shot behind included British Open and PGA champion Pádraig Harrington, who didn't feel as though he did much of anything right and had his best score of the year.

"I think I hit two fairways with my driver today. So it's not like I played good golf or anything like that," Harrington said. "It was all about the score."

For Mickelson, it was mostly about his finish.

He hit into the water on No. 3 and took double bogey, found the water again on the par-3 fourth hole and chipped in for par. Mickelson was even through eight holes and was hopeful of a good back nine that would allow him a chance Friday to get into contention.

Three hours later, he already was there.

After trying to drive the 355-yard 16th hole, he pitched up to 3 feet for birdie. Then he chipped in from short of the green on the 17th, and made it three straight

birdies by chipping in from about 25 feet on the 18th.

Woods didn't have many close looks at birdie, picking up two of them on par 5s and the other one with a 7-iron that stopped a foot from the hole on the par-3 15th hole.

"Today I was trying to figure it out, how to get the ball in the hole a little bit faster than what I was doing," Woods said.

Consider this a slow start. It's one thing to be six shots behind after the opening round, quite another when 35 players separated him from the top of the leaderboard, a familiar position for Woods at Doral.

"You are going to have days like today," Woods said. "And I would be obviously a little bit more disappointed, a little more frustrated, if I had not played well. I felt like I hit the ball well, hit putts well, but they just didn't go in. I have to be a little bit sharper tomorrow. Hopefully, those putts go in tomorrow and the score will be a little different."

Sean O'Hair began his round with consecutive eagles and was among the group at 67. Henrik Stenson played a shot from the mucky water on the third hole after taking off everything but his boxer shorts and his golf club. He shot a 69.

One of the biggest cheers Woods heard in his group came on the 16th hole when he took his driver out of the bag to go for the green. It was his first all-out swing—he recoiled after contact—and it didn't seem to bother him, except for where the ball landed. It was right, in the rough, and Woods could get it no closer than 20 feet.

Mickelson is putting a DVD on the market on short-game instruction, and he put on an exhibition. Lefty is possibly the best player in golf inside 100 yards, and his chipping was deft as ever. Perhaps no chip-in was as significant as the fourth hole, especially coming off a double bogey on the previous hole and having to take another penalty stroke.

But it was the whole package that made Mickelson so excited. Even when he was even par through eight holes, he knew it was coming.

"I felt going into this tournament that I was playing as well as I ever have, as far as I can remember," he said. "From 50 yards in, my short game has never been this good. And I've never driven the ball this long and this straight without the fear of a big miss. My iron play is better than it has been in quite some time. And I expect that to improve as the week goes on."

"I am excited about the next three rounds."

## Ramirez scratched from first spring training start



**PHOENIX (AP)—**Manny

Ramirez' spring training debut was pushed back at least one more day.

The Los Angeles Dodgers' slugger was scratched from Thursday's exhibition game against South Korea because of tightness in his left hamstring. Ramirez said he could have played, but manager Joe Torre decided to give him the day off.

"It's going to get better, so I'm not worried about it," said Ramirez, who had been in the lineup as a designated hitter. "I'm not disappointed. You've got plenty of time to get ready. That's in my favor, so I'm going to take it day by day."

Ramirez also seemed unconcerned about criticism from former Boston teammate Jonathan Papelbon, who compared Ramirez to cancer in the April issue of Esquire. The Red Sox closer said Boston made the right decision when it traded Ramirez to the Dodgers last summer.

"He was on a different train! And you saw what happened

with that. We got rid of him, and we moved on without him," Papelbon was quoted as saying in a story posted on Esquire's Web site Thursday.

"So Manny was tough for us," Papelbon added. "You have somebody like him, you know at any point in the ballgame, he can dictate the outcome of the game. And for him not to be on the same page as the rest of the team was a killer, man! It just takes one guy to bring an entire team down, and that's exactly what was happening."

"Once we saw that, we weren't afraid to get rid of him. It's like cancer. That's what he was. Cancer. He had to go. It sucked, but that was the only scenario that was going to work."

Ramirez shrugged off Papelbon's comments.

"That's fine, that's fine," Ramirez said. "I've already moved on with my life. Like I said, I wish everybody the best. I'm in LA now."

"I'm just focusing (on) playing here," he said. "I don't got no control over what people say or what I did in the past or what-

ever. I moved on already. I'm in L.A. It is what it is."

Ramirez has been embraced by the Dodgers. After Ramirez agreed last week to a \$45 million, two-year contract—he can void the deal after one season—the Dodgers treated Ramirez like a returning hero.

Ramirez led the Dodgers to the 2008 NL West title by hitting .396 with 17 homers and 53 RBIs in 53 regular-season games. In the playoffs, he batted .520 with four homers, 10 RBIs, nine runs and 11 walks in eight games.

The Dodgers expect Ramirez to play a big role in their division title defense, and that's why they didn't want to rush him.

Ramirez has been showing up before dawn to get in playing shape after missing the first two weeks of spring training. He said his hamstring tightened up as he ran from second base to home during a drill before batting practice on Thursday morning.

Ramirez said he told Torre he wanted to play, but the manager scratched him and started Mark Loretta at DH instead.

"(Torre) said, 'No, let's take on

more day off,'" Ramirez said.

Ramirez said he hoped to play on Friday against Texas. He said he has no doubts about being ready for opening day.

"I think we have time," he said.

Ramirez said he hopes he can get between 40 and 50 at-bats before opening day. The Dodgers have 19 spring training games left.

"I need the whole spring training," Ramirez said. "Everybody needs it just to go and get ready at the plate and get ready in the outfield."

Ramirez' scheduled return didn't create a rush at the box office at Camelback Ranch. Thursday's game drew a sparse crowd on a sunny, 75-degree afternoon.

But Ramirez still caused a stir on a day he didn't play.

A flock of South Korean media trailed Ramirez into the parking lot as he left the clubhouse. Ramirez stopped and posed for pictures and signed several autographs - including one for a batting practice pitcher in a South Korean uniform.

## Cuba beats Mexico to win pool B

**MEXICO CITY (AP)—**Yulieski Gourriel, Ariel Pestano and Frederich Cepeda all homered to help Cuba rout Mexico 16-4 in seven innings Thursday night to secure first place in Group B at the World Baseball Classic.

Pestano and Cepeda each hit three-run homers in a nine-run seventh inning rally to lead Cuba to a win by the mercy rule. Gourriel hit a two-run homer in a five-run fourth and finished with four RBIs.

"Mexico and Cuba ... it was a tough game, we had to play to win it, but at the same time, we needed to keep our pitchers fresh because we were both thinking in the next round," Cuban manager Higinio Velez said.

Yulieski Gonzalez (1-0) gave up one hit and one run with three strikeouts and two walks in two innings of relief for Cuba.

Francisco Campos (0-1) allowed four runs and four hits in 1 2-3 innings. He struck out three and walked one.

Cuba finished the first round

undefeated in three games, and Mexico dropped to 2-2.

"Obviously I do not like to lose, much less like this, but we are in, we wanted to classify, we wanted to finish first, but we could not do it," Mexico manager Vinicio Castilla said. "You have to learn from your mistakes because the good teams will make you pay."

Mexico will open the second round on Sunday in San Diego against South Korea, winner of Group A in Tokyo, while Cuba will face Japan in a rematch of the 2006 final won by Japan.

"In the next round we will play the Asian team, they have great pitching, and Mexico will be there also and they are going to be different," added Velez.

Freddy Sandoval, Oscar Robles and Karim Garcia hit solo homers for Mexico.

Mexico's Foro Sol, located 1.4 miles above sea level, proved to be a hitters delight, with 28 homers hit in the six games played here.





TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	49	16	.754	—
Philadelphia	31	31	.500	16 1/2
New Jersey	28	36	.438	20 1/2
New York	27	37	.422	21 1/2
Toronto	23	42	.354	26

Central Division

x-Cleveland	50	13	.794	—
Detroit	32	31	.508	18
Milwaukee	30	37	.448	22
Chicago	29	36	.446	22
Indiana	28	38	.424	23 1/2

Southeast Division

x-Orlando	47	17	.734	—
Atlanta	37	28	.569	10 1/2
Miami	35	29	.547	12
Charlotte	28	36	.438	19
Washington	15	50	.231	32 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	43	21	.672	—
Houston	42	24	.636	2
New Orleans	40	23	.635	2 1/2
Dallas	40	25	.615	3 1/2
Memphis	16	47	.254	26 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	41	24	.631	—
Portland	40	24	.625	1/2
Denver	41	25	.621	1/2
Minnesota	19	45	.297	21 1/2
Oklahoma City	18	47	.277	23

Pacific Division

x-LA Lakers	52	13	.800	—
Phoenix	34	30	.531	17 1/2
Golden State	22	42	.344	29 1/2
LA Clippers	15	49	.234	36 1/2
Sacramento	14	50	.219	37 1/2

Yesterday's Games

LA Lakers 102, San Antonio 95  
Cleveland 119, Phoenix 111

x-clinched playoff berth

WGC-CA CHAMPIONSHIP

FIRST ROUND

Jeev Milkha Singh	65
Retief Goosen	65
Prayad Marksang	65
Phil Mickelson	65
Nick Watney	66
Rod Pampling	66
James Kingston	66
Padraig Harrington	66
Louis Oosthuizen	67
Camilo Villegas	67
Sean O'Hair	67
Oliver Wilson	67
Andres Romero	67
Charley Hoffman	68
Jim Furyk	68
Rory McIlroy	68
Luke Donald	69
Steve Stricker	69
Henrik Stenson	69
Rory Sabbatini	69
Vijay Singh	69
Robert Allenby	69
Justin Leonard	69
Boo Weekley	69
Miguel Angel Jimenez	69
Ian Poulter	69
Briny Baird	70
Peter Hanson	70
Ryuji Imada	70
Davis Love III	70
Dustin Johnson	70
Zach Johnson	70
Richard Sterne	70
Shingo Katayama	70
Ernie Els	70
Garth Mulroy	70
Kenny Perry	70
Pat Perez	70
Soren Kjeldsen	70
Lee Westwood	71
Stuart Appleby	71

Ben Curtis	71
Ken Duke	71
Paul Casey	71
Robert Karlsson	71
Mike Weir	71
Tiger Woods	71
Hunter Mahan	71
Dudley Hart	71
Tim Clark	71
Anthony Kim	71
Ross Fisher	71
Adam Scott	71
Chad Campbell	72
Richard Finch	72
Alvaro Quiros	72
Sergio Garcia	72
Stephen Ames	72
Bubba Watson	72
Mark Brown	73
Stewart Cink	73
Geoff Ogilvy	73
K.J. Choi	73
Graeme McDowell	73
Justin Rose	73
Y.E. Yang	73
Martin Kaymer	73
Thomas Aiken	74
Trevor Immelman	74
Darren Clarke	74
Carl Pettersson	74
Soren Hansen	74
Kevin Sutherland	74
Aaron Baddeley	75
Billy Mayfair	75
Wen-Tang Lin	75
John Rollins	76
Pablo Larrazabal	76
Azuma Yano	77
D.J. Trahan	77

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

NAVY HILL STANDINGS

Dollar Days	10	1
Docomo	9	2
Taco Bell/KFC	8	3
RBC Rollers	8	3
Inchcape	7	4
MBI	6	5
Athlete's Foot	6	5
Uncle Ben	5	6
IT&E	4	7
San Antonio Shooters	2	9
670 Rollers	1	10
Mobil	1	10

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Men

DCCA	18	0
Docomo	14	4
Freedom Air	13	3
Beach Boys	13	3
CPA	12	4
Joeten Motor Jets	12	5
No Zone	11	5
Legislature	11	7
POI	8	8
CRM/DEQ	7	9
P&S	6	9
DLNR	6	12
PIC	5	10
CUC	5	10
CHC	5	11
PSS	5	11
Customs	4	12
Mayors	4	12
Law & Order	3	14
Hopwood	0	16

Women

NMC	10	2
Finance	6	4
CUC	6	5
DCCA	5	7
CHC	1	10

BUDWEISER SML STANDINGS

Rock Steady	3	0
Ford Rangers	2	1
D-9ers	2	1
Tanapag Falcons	1	1
Masters	1	2
Korean Phoenix	0	2
Young Guns	0	2

MHS

From Page 28

also did their share in keeping pace with Kagman's backcourt, while Tomokane added depth inside with his rebounds and shot-blocking ability.

After leading by a deuce in the first quarter, 16-14, the Dolphins found themselves behind by a hair in the second period, 33-34. But Gross said his wards kept their focus and remained confident.

"I believe that by halftime, the team had begun to believe that they could play with Kagman, that the offense patterns we practiced for weeks were

working when executed, that the hustling defense they played could stop Kagman's high powered offense, and that fundamentally sound basketball skills could win," Gross said.

Gross added free throw shooting was also a factor in the game.

The Ayuyus missed three charities that could have won them the title in regulation. Kagman went 9-for-22 at the foul line.

MHS did not perform well from the 15-foot line either, but it made more charities than Kagman, going 20-for-41.

"Players in the MISO caging should spend some time visiting the free throw line and the weight room," Gross said.

# Rock Steady, Ford Rangers win over rivals

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
n\_rodriguez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The top two teams last year routed separate opponents this week in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Defending champion Rock Steady clinched its third win in a row by beating the Masters, 9-3, Monday night.

Vince Sablan struck out 10 batters and allowed nine hits and gave up three runs after

eight and half innings that allowed Rock Steady to keep its clean 3-0 win-loss record, half-way through the first round of the regular season.

Rock Steady's previous victories were against Ford

Rangers, 6-5, on opening day and Young Guns, 10-5, on Feb. 27.

Ben Guerrero scored two runs in the third and seventh and Julian Tenerio in the second and sixth, while six other Rock

Steady players added a run each as the team completely dominated the Masters.

John Reyes jump-started the win with a run in the bottom of the first. Martin Pangelinan added one more in the second, while Oliver Schermidal,

Manny Sablan, and Byron Kai-pat tucked in three more in the sixth and seventh innings.

Scoring for the Masters were Jess Muna in the top of second,

Pepe Tenorio in the third, and Mike Muna in the ninth.

On Wednesday night, last year's runner-up Ford Rangers shattered D-9ers, 13-3, in seven complete innings.

It was Ford Rangers' second straight win, tying the D-9ers in second place at 2-1.

The Tanapag Falcons and Masters were playing as of presstime last night.

Monday's games will then pit the Young Guns against Ford Rangers.

## Navy Hill caging starts playoffs tomorrow

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



The playoff round in the 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League will begin tomorrow at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Nine teams made it to the next round with Dollar Days gaining a bye after taking the pennant. Dollar Days finished the single-round robin regular

season with a 10-1 record.

In second place was Docomo (9-2), followed by KFC/Taco Bell (8-3), Rollers (8-3), Inchcape (7-4), MBI (6-5), Athlete's Foot (6-5), Uncle Ben (5-6), and IT&E (4-7). Booted out of the tournament were the San Antonio Shooters (2-9), 670 Rollers (1-10), and Mobil (1-10).

Format for the first two rounds of the playoffs is single elimination. The pairings are Docomo vs. IT&E; KFC/Taco Bell vs. Uncle Ben; Rollers vs. Athlete's

Foot; and Inchcape vs. MBI.

Docomo and IT&E will collide in Game 1 of the playoffs tomorrow at 7pm.

Docomo gained the second seeding after winning against MBI in the last game in the regular season on March 5, 37-27. The Docomo-MBI tiff was originally set for Feb. 19, but was suspended in the first quarter due to rain. The game was rained-out, again, last week with Docomo ahead, 37-27, and with 1:55 left in the second quarter. Both teams

agreed not to continue the match and handed the win to Docomo.

After the first playoff game between Docomo and IT&E, Inchcape will meet MBI in Game 2 at 8:30pm.

Four teams will advance to second round, then only two teams are eligible to join Dollar Days in the next phase of the league. The first two among three remaining squads to win two games will then move into the finals, which will be a best-of-three affair.

## KIMURA

From Page 28

will leave with Staal and Kensuke and has high hopes for the two swimmers.

"In the Japan Open last month, Tsunami Saipan swimmers wanted to gain experience. This time in the sprint tournament, they are aiming to make the finals or win

a medal," Hiro said.

He added this weekend's tournament will be Staal's first and last in the Japan sprint, which is for 15-and-under swimmers. Staal is turning 16 years old next year.

"This will be his first and only chance to show a good performance in the age group tournament. This tournament is one of the largest swim meets in the

world for junior swimmers. I hope Kai will win here because the events here are his favorites," Hiro said.

Staal will be competing in the 50m freestyle, 50m breaststroke, and 100m individual medley.

Kensuke is on his second stint in the Japan sprint tournament after placing 20th among 100 swimmers in the 100m IM last year, and this time Hiro is expecting his

son to advance to the finals.

"Kensuke is only 12 years old and still has several chances to compete in this tournament. But of course, we want him to have a better showing this year, possibly to make it to the finals," Hiro said.

Kensuke will also join the 100m IM, 50m freestyle, and the 50m breaststroke in the 11-12 age group.

## IGUEL

From Page 28

Team Aztecs, and D-9ers.

Ol'Aces won its first game against IT&E, 6-5, last Feb. 19 but bowed to D-9ers, 1-2, last March 3.

Meanwhile, the loss was the Hustlers' second straight defeat.

Hustlers opened up their campaign with a 3-1 decision over the Tanapag Falcons last Feb. 17, but lost to Team Az-

tecs, 5-8, last March 5.

The Falcons posted a back-to-back wins on Tuesday against IT&E, the only team so far without a win in the young season.

The next game in the Big League Division will be between the Falcons and Team Aztecs this coming Tuesday, March 17.

Games in the Junior League will resume today with the Patriots pitted against the Red Sox at 9am. Ol'Aces, for its part, take on the Fielders at 1pm.

## DCCA

From Page 28

ular season.

DCCA virtually took the pennant as early as two weeks ago.

The only team left standing in its way is Pacific Islands Club with their game set March 19.

But more importantly, DCCA nailed an outright entry for the playoff round along with five other teams.

Joining the march to the next round are Docomo (14-4), Freedom Air (13-3), Beach Boys (13-3), Commonwealth Ports Authority (12-4), and Joeten Motor Jets (12-5).

No Zone (11-5) and Legislature (11-7) need to win one more game to assure themselves a playoff spot.

DLNR is now out of the playoffs with its 6-12 record.

## CUC 10, Hopwood 0

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. improved its record to 5-11 by blanking cellar dweller Hopwood, 10-0.

But CUC has a bleak prospect for the playoffs as it needs to win all of its three remaining games to advance to the postseason.

Last night's games will be critical for all the teams in the bottom half of the 20-team field, including CUC.

Hopwood became the first team to virtually drop out from the playoffs with its 0-16 record.

## Legislature 20, POI 5

Mitch Aaron hit the season's first grand slam, Fonze Tarope scored two homeruns, and Dave Apatang added another homer to lead Legislature to a 20-5 victory over POI Aviation.

## Docomo 16, CHC 2

On Thursday night, Docomo played solid defense to hammer out an abbreviated 16-2 triumph against Commonwealth Health Center, which is now on the brink of elimination with its 5-11 record.

Docomo, which needed just five full innings to prevail, grabbed solo second with a 14-4 mark and could afford to lose its last two games without being bumped from the playoffs.

## Beach Boys 8, CRM/DEQ 7

The Beach Boys rallied from a 2-6 deficit after three and a half innings before coming home with an 8-7 win over CRM/DEQ.

Jr. Suel, Harlan Reyes, Ray Blas, Oliver Schermidal, and Jun Salalilia reached home plate in succession in the bottom fourth to seize the lead, 7-6.

Pitcher Steve Igisaiair then scored on a double by Suel in the bottom sixth to make it 8-6.

CRM/DEQ threatened a comeback as a Larry Sugiyama triple sent Jacob Lizama to home plate.

But that was the final run of the game as Igisaiair grounded out the last batter of the game, Ed Manibusan. The Beach Boys thus notched its 13th win against three losses and dealt CRM/DEQ its seventh defeat in 16 matches.





## Lefty takes share of lead, Tiger sputters at Doral

Tiger Woods returned to stroke play for the first time since winning the U.S. Open, and so much of it felt familiar except for the leaderboard at Doral. **25**

# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Bryant scores 23 as Lakers clinch playoff berth

The Los Angeles Lakers are the West's first team in the playoffs. Kobe Bryant made sure of it. **26**



28 SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# MHS Dolphins' blueprint for success

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**B**asketball teams playing with depleted lineups could take a cue on how to win games from the MHS Dolphins.

Marianas High School regained the championship in the boys varsity division of the MISO Basketball League two weeks ago after slipping past Kagman High School in overtime, 76-72. The Dolphins did it with only eight players and sans their two gunners—Jericho Cruz and Marvin Rabauliman.

Cruz and Rabauliman were booted



out of the team, a few days before the Dolphins-Ayuyus title match, which was played on Feb. 27.

MHS coaches Mark McDonald and Nick Gross declined to discuss the cause of Cruz and Rabauliman's expulsions, and instead focused on the remaining eight players who brought glory back to the Dolphins.

"Winning the championship took the talent and dedication of eight incredibly hard-working young men. Without anyone of them, the results may have

been much different," Gross said.

Left to team up for MHS' title conquest against Kagman were Clayton Kenty, Wes Tomokane, Zack Tudela, Joe Ada, Ronron Catap, Aemir Villegas, Noel Soria, and Champ Untalan.

Ada fired 36 points to lead the Dolphins' offense, while Kenty and Soria also stepped up in the finals. The duo, who usually came off the bench when Rabauliman and Cruz were still on the team, combined for 26 points and had three each in the Dolphins' 12 points in overtime.

Tudela, Villegas, Catap, and Untalan

See MHS on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MHS coach Nick Gross takes his turn at the ceremonial cutting of the net after the Dolphins beat Kagman High School in the finals of the MISO caging last month at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



Staal



Kimura

## Kimura, Staal to compete in Japan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Kai Staal and Kensuke Kimura left for Tokyo, Japan yesterday afternoon to participate in a sprint tournament at the Tatsumi International Swimming Stadium.



The two Tsunami Saipan swimmers are among the 3,455 participants in the tournament that will start today and will run until tomorrow. Besides Tsunami Saipan, 102 more teams are participating in the two-day meet,

which will be held at the same venue that hosted the Japan Open.

Rezne Wong and Shin Kimura competed in the Japan Open last month and this weekend it will be Staal and Kensuke's turn to run the show at the world-class facility.

Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura

See KIMURA on Page 27

## Iguel, Ol'Aces beat Hustlers

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
n\_rodriguez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Juan Iguel retired 15 batters in a row as Ol'Aces defeated the Hustlers, 11-1, on Thursday night in the Big League Division of the 2009 SLLBA at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Iguel struck out three, allowed only one hit, and gave up a run in six complete innings.

Marvin Kaipat reached home plate on a fielding error in the bottom of sixth but Iguel didn't allow anymore Hustlers player to reach first base after that.

With the win, Ol'Aces cornered its second win in three outings that created a four-way logjam on top of the team standings.

The other three teams with 2-1 win-loss slates are the Tanapag Falcons, **See IGUEL on Page 27**



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Jesses De Leon Guerrero of the Red Sox swings the bat on a low pitch by the Fielders' R.J. Villagomez in their game in the Junior Division of the 2009 SLLBA last March 7 at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

## DCCA picks up 18th win against DLNR

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
n\_rodriguez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs players hit five homers en route to a 16-6 win against Department of Land and Natural Resources Wednesday night in the 2008-2009 Budweiser Inter-Government Business Slow-pitch Softball League at the Capital Hill Ballfield.



Julian Camacho and Joey Dela Cruz homered twice, while pitcher Mel Sakisat had one as DCCA picked up its 18th win and moved within a win of sweeping the reg-

See DCCA on Page 27